

[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

These cuts have been accepted by Government. I beg to submit that the demands to be made to this House may be amended accordingly.

PRESIDENT. Yes.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: The House will now proceed to the general discussion of the budget.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Sir, before I enter into the discussion of the budget I have very great pleasure to express my deep feelings of gratitude and loyalty to His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja of Travancore for the constitutional reforms so graciously granted to us by the promulgation of Regulation II of 1108; and with the same feelings I thank you, Sir, for advising His Highness the Maha Raja for the introduction of such a measure.

Coming to the budget, I am sorry, Sir, that I cannot congratulate the Financial Secretary for the budget he has presented nor for the speech he delivered at the joint sitting of the Legislatures in introducing it. Sir, a close study of the budget will convince any that it is neither a surplus budget nor a balanced one. In this connection, I have to sympathise with the Financial Secretary for the position he holds between the Government and this side of the House. He has no absolute control over the finances of the State. He is neither a Financial Adviser to Government nor a Finance Minister. He has simply to obey the orders of Government in the matter of budgeting and the disbursing of amounts. The position he holds as Financial Secretary and as the Chief Account and Audit Officer to Government is also another matter which I have to bring to the attention of Government in this connection. Sir, the separation of the post of the Financial Secretary and the post of Chief Account and Audit Officer has been repeatedly urged in various sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the undesirability of keeping these functions in one and the same officer. Sir, unless a strong ministry is formed with full powers and control over the finances and the offices of the Financier and the Chief Account and Audit Officer are kept under experts, the financial position of the State is not likely to thrive well.

Speaking of the financial condition of the State I dare say, Sir, without the least fear of contradiction or without any hesitation, that by the abnormal increase in expenditure and by the large undertakings by Government, followed by the economic depression in the State, the Government is consciously or unconsciously drifting into bankruptcy. This is not a fear based on mere imagination or a fear without foundation. This fear was entertained so far back as the year 1097 when the then Financial Secretary, Mr. K. George, pointed out that there were grounds for such a fear. After a review of the finances of the past ten years he pointed out that the increase of expenditure was 45 per cent. and the increase of income was only 41 per cent. But he promised

that strict economy would be observed and that reasonable retrenchment would be made and that all efforts would be taken to husband the resources of revenue. Ten years rolled on and when we reached the year 1107, the income of the State increased to 219 lakhs and the expenditure to 218 lakhs. During a course of ten years the increase in revenue amounted to over 24 lakhs and the expenditure to over 28 lakhs. The fact that our cash balance is dwindling day by day is seen from the closing speech of the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary towards the close of his speech points out -

"As Government propose to incur a Capital expenditure of Rs. 19.37 lakhs during the next year, the net outgoing is estimated at Rs. 17.58 lakhs. The Government Account is thus expected to close with a balance of Rs. 96.12 lakhs. The cash balance of the State which stood at Rs. 57.55 lakhs at the beginning of the current year is expected to stand at Rs. 44.52 lakhs at its close and at Rs. 44.57 lakhs at the close of the next year".

The economy promised, the retrenchment talked of and thought of, all ended in smoke. The resources of revenue, sought to be tapped, have also not been tapped. There has been only an increase in revenue by 24 lakhs of rupees from the people during the period of ten years. The tapping of revenue from the Periyar lease, the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Concession and by the renewing of the Interportal Trade Convention was not made. I tell you, Sir, that if the Government were to spend money in this way we are sure to end in bankruptcy.

During a period of ten years the Government have realised Rs. 24 lakhs when the people were under adverse circumstances and when they are passing through many unfavourable seasons. The increase of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 28 lakhs is in a direction which was not at all beneficial to the people. The cost of administration has gone up by leaps and bounds. From 37 per cent. of the total income in the year 1101 we have reached in the year 1108 about 45 per cent. The ever increasing expenditure on, and the cost of, administration is said to be due phenomenally to the efficiency of administration. I dare say, Sir, that the more we spend for efficiency the less benefit we derive from the officers concerned. Corruption is rampant in Travancore. It is a great satisfaction, Sir, that you have turned your attention in this direction and punished certain officers. But I tell you, Sir, that a stern and vigorous policy alone would root out this evil. We have been repeatedly complaining in sessions after sessions of the Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council about this prevailing evil. But it has become a cry in the wilderness. When this matter was brought to the notice of Government at the 19th session of the Popular Assembly. Mr. Raghaviah who presided said in the most compromising terms that there were corrupt officers in the State and that the general complaint about corruption would be of no avail. He said "until people themselves are bold enough to come forward and denounce bad officials, Government and the high Officers of Government can do very little to put down corruption. I have known in the most backward tracts of

[Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi,]

the Madras Presidency hundreds of people coming forward and speaking out openly their grievances. Until the people co-operate with the Government by giving specific instances and affording proof, it is not possible for Government to put down corruption. If such proof is forthcoming Government will not be lagging behind to put down corruption by the institution of judicial enquiries and by punishing severely corrupt officers." But, when specific instances were brought to the notice of Government the Government not only gave a deaf ear to the complaints made but the officers concerned were promoted to higher grades.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: (*Nominated*). May I know from the member whether he can cite an instance where a corrupt officer has been promoted to a higher grade?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I am coming to that. When a police officer is said to have received bribes and the matter was brought by a member to the notice of Government in the Council, the promised judicial enquiry was not ordered. But the member was ordered to be prosecuted and I understand that the prosecution is still pending for the last five years. When another member of the Legislative Council brought to the notice of Government the high-handedness of an Assistant Superintendent of Police and it is said that his immediate superior supported the charges against him—that Assistant Superintendent of Police was promoted as the District Superintendent of Police. When a doctor is said to have received bribes, and when he is alleged to have drawn out the teeth of a young woman without her consent and with fatal result, he is said to have been promoted.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Will the member be pleased to name the medical officer?

PRESIDENT: No names, please.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: These are matters which are known to all. The officer concerned was promoted to the grade of Deputy Surgeon. The recent Municipal President's election muddle in the Nagercoil Municipality, the unhappy complicity of the senior official councillor and the alleged action of a certain police officer in the counterfeit of coins in the northern district are but few instances of official corruption. I tell you, Sir, that nepotism, communalism and favouritism prevail in the matter of giving appointments and promotions, especially in the branch of general administration. Representation of unrepresented communities is taken in one instance and in the same breath efficiency is considered, while on another occasion length of service is made much of.

I may also point out that Government is not following a consistent policy in the appointment of high officers in the State. When the vacancy of Chief Engineer arose the claims of the senior Executive Engineer were overlooked on the ground that he was wanting in university qualifications though he has a glorious service of more than 20 years in Travancore.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Will the member be pleased to state whether the efficiency of an officer who is already in service is determined by his seniority?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Not only by the seniority but also by his actual experience.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know from the member the actual test of experience he would suggest?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I do not quite catch the member. I say that an officer of Government with so many years experience is the best man to be preferred.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Am I to understand from the member that an officer who has got so many years' experience is a more competent officer than an officer who is in service for less years?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I fear the member has misunderstood me.

PRESIDENT: I think we are getting rather far from the budget.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: When the Government thought of appointing a Darbar Physician, a man from outside the service with little or no qualifications who is working in the Mission Hospital is preferred to the many highly qualified men in the service with meritorious service in the department. Again, Sir, when the appointment of the Director of Public Instruction came up, in the teeth of opposition from the members of the Legislative Council condemning the appointment of foreigners, only foreigners are appointed repeatedly. I tell you, Sir, in the matter of lower service the less said the better it is. On the face of the promise made by Government on 26-12-1107 to a question put by Mr. P. S. Mahomed about the appointment of unrepresented classes in the Vernacular branch, 47 teachers appointed by the Inspector of Vernacular Schools were disbanded by a stroke of the pen by the Director of Public Instruction and 47 families have been driven into starvation.

Coming to the budget again, the Financial Secretary has budgeted the maximum land tax of 36 lakhs of rupees. In that he has included Rs. 75,000 by way of process fees, fines, etc. He has entirely forgotten when budgeting this amount that the people of Travancore are passing through very severe economic depression. When our best paddy lands are silted up, when our cattle, implements of husbandry, our houses, and even our granaries are washed away by the floods, the unsympathetic revenue officers proclaim for sale our best immovable properties and tom tom from corner to corner and village to village to realise the arrears of revenue, over and above the Rs. 75,000 by way of process fees. I tell you, Sir, that when the people are actually burning in poverty the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja are tuning with our hard earned cash in their hands. Large amounts

[Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi,]

were disbursed for the services of the Darbar Physician for a few months. A costly Darbar Physician, a Director of Public Instruction and a Chief Justice are to be imported very shortly in preference to the best officers in the State service.

Large sums for reproductive works for town-planning and town drainage are budgeted for. Provision for unnecessary appointments such as Warden of games, the opening of a Central Printing Office in the Huzur Secretariat has been made in the budget. But what about our poor agriculturists who form 55 per cent of the population? What about the recommendation made by the Minor Irrigation Committee to spend five lakhs of rupees for minor irrigation? What about the protective irrigation? What about the works to be done for productive irrigation and relief of flood damages? A nominal grant of a lakh of rupees is budgeted for this. I tell you, Sir, that the policy followed by the Government is just like providing "golden shoes for a starving child".

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Sir, at a time like this, when all the countries of the world are facing deficit budgets, and when even the richest gold hoarding countries like France and America are finding it difficult to balance their budgets, it is indeed a matter for congratulation that our Financial Secretary is not faced with similar difficulties. Sir, he is exceptionally lucky in that his forecasts of revenue always err in his favour. I may assure him, Sir, that from the manner in which he has forecasted his revenue for the current year he need not at all be anxious about the realisation. Sir, viewing this budget from the point of view of the constituency which I represent, I am afraid that the statement of assets and liabilities presented by him at page 7 does not represent our true financial position to-day. Sir, I may submit that the shares invested by us on industrial concerns such as the Mundakayam Aerial Ropeway Company, and the Travancore Sugars Ltd. are all included at their par value.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I correct the member and say that it does not include the shares in the Ropeway Company?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I thank him for the correction. I may say, Sir, that the Financial Secretary has not stated anywhere in his budget the names of concerns where shares are taken. It was with great difficulty, Sir, that I was able to find that the Travancore Sugars Ltd. was one of those concerns in which shares had been taken by Government. What those shares are now worth in the market is a fact that all of us know. Again, Sir, while the loans made by Government are included in the assets column, all the loans raised do not find a place in the liability column. For instance the huge loan of a crore and forty lakhs of rupees raised in England is not included in the liability side. Again the State balance in Government of India Securities and other investments is shown at their face value. Under these circumstances I ask, Sir, whether the figures contained in this budget represent our true financial position and can be relied upon fully?

Another point which I wish to dwell upon is that neither the Financial Secretary's speech nor the budget presented before us disclose anything to show that in framing the same any regard has been paid to the views expressed by the representatives of the people on the floor of the Legislative Council or the Popular Assembly or upon the considered views expressed by various committees upon which large sums of money have been spent. Nor does it reveal anything to show that it has been prepared to suit the needs of the people at a time like this when all but the officers of Government are depressed on account of the economic crisis. From the latest Administration Reports made available to us we find that the decrease under the principal heads of revenue is attributed to the economic depression and the consequent fall in the price of agricultural products. That being so, I ask, Sir, what have the Government done to relieve this distress and augment the revenue? Sir, the value of our exports which was Rs. 11.80 crores in 1104 became 11.29 crores in 1105 and it went down to 9.65 crores in 1106, and has dwindled to 7.51 crores in 1107. Sir, what were our monopolies once are no longer so now. The discovery of substitutes has deprived us of several of our markets. It is therefore the paramount duty of Government to explore new markets and find out ways and means to increase our exports. Sir, the special officer for Travancore at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley while stating that "A trade agent in London will be able to do a great deal to develop our trade and safeguard the interests of our merchants" has strongly emphasised how his services would be useful for promoting the commercial interests of the State. As has been observed by the late Mr. M. E. Watts of revered memory,

"Once more it is imperative for Travancore to think and act and organise as Raja Kesava Das and Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao did—not to regard itself as a polype in polypidom, as a district of a province, but as a State with all a State's commercial attributes and responsibilities, to be exercised to the full to safeguard an imperilled economic position. Trade must perforce use its tentacles; and tentacles must seek and secure contacts."

When at this moment nations are wrangling against each other at Ottawa and Geneva for finding out markets for their produce and improve their trade we have taken a retrograde step. Last year this time the Financial Secretary said:

"The appointment of an Agent in London to represent the trade interests of the State in the European markets has been for some time past engaging the attention of Government. The need for such an appointment has been pressed by this Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Banking Enquiry Committee and the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee. The creation of a Trade Agency in London will, it is hoped, go a great way to help the foreign trade of the country, especially at the present time when the prices of our articles of export have fallen considerably. A lump provision of Rs. 30,000 has accordingly been made in the budget for the next year for the appointment of a Trade Agent in London who will advertise our goods in foreign markets, book orders for our merchants and intimate from time to time the fluctuations in the prices of commodities in the European markets. He will thus represent our trade interests and advise our merchants on the financial position of the foreign buyers. He will also function as an Agent for the purchase of stores for Government."

[Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.]

Another most important point which I wish to draw the attention of Government is their lack of responsibility in carrying out the assurances they have given on the floor of Representative Institutions. Instances are numerous but for want of time I shall just quote a glaring instance where they have failed even to do their duty to the Sovereign. Sir, it was in 1100 that a resolution was passed by the then Legislative Council that steps be taken to commemorate the long, prosperous and glorious reign of His Highness Sri Mulam Tirunal, the late lamented Maha Raja, by erecting a Chamber for the Legislative Council and a life size statue of His Highness. Nothing having been done till the end of 1103, I expressed my resentment to the then Dewan by declining to consider the proposals of Government that were placed before the Finance Committee of which I was a Member, and the Dewan told us that the plans were drawn up and even showed the same to us. And a token motion which was moved on the floor of the Council was withdrawn on the assurance of the President as follows :

"The site has been settled, the preliminary plans have been drawn up and we are only waiting to bring forward a supplementary grant for the purpose."

It is now over five years since this incident happened and nothing seems to have been done till now. What does this reflect, Sir? I leave it to you and the House to form conclusions.

Now, Sir, coming to the proposals of expenditure in the budget placed before us let us examine what portion of the revenue collected at the sweat of the tax payer is expended to promote his happiness and the prosperity of the country? Permit me to candidly state that while the immediate needs of the people are ignored, expenditure is sought to be made for continuing unnecessary appointments, creating new appointments and on questionable luxuries. When funds are not available for sinking wells where there are none and providing drinking water I ask, Sir, what propriety is there in providing large sums for renewing cutlery and crockery in Traveller's Bungalows and furnishing the Government Bungalows and other similar luxuries? This is indeed deplorable!

Passing next to Railways, Sir, the Financial Secretary consoles us by saying that the loss for the year ending March 1933 is only Rs. 52,000 as against Rs. 72,000 in the previous year. And let us see what he has done to avert this calamity in the future. He says.

"As there is no improvement so far in the earning of the Railways a net loss of Rs. 50,000 is estimated for the next year."

From the answers given to some interpellations on the floor of the Assembly it is seen that we have no control of any kind whatsoever on the administration of our Railways upon which we have invested huge sums. On the other hand we are called upon to make good deficits year after year and provide capital expenditure whenever necessary. In other words we are called upon to pay the piper while the right to call the tune is reserved to somebody else. In this connection I wish to make one observation, viz.,

that, if only our Government would move and secure the freight concessions that are now being allowed for the agricultural and industrial products in various parts of British India, it will be a material assistance to the people of this country in the present period of depression for developing new markets and in the interests of commerce and industry. I would request you, Sir, to take steps at once in this direction. One more point under this head which I wish to draw the attention of Government is that, if steps could be taken to train some young men for service in the Railway Department and arrangements made with the Railway Board to employ them in our Railways, it will to some extent relieve unemployment in the State.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, fortunately this is the eighth time that I have had the privilege of advancing a few observations on the budget estimate presented to the legislature by the Financial Secretary. Of these, seven budget estimates were presented by the present Financial Secretary. From a perusal of these estimates, any intelligent man will be convinced that our Financial Secretary is nothing but an old Accountant of a traditional sort who is merely concerned with showing the income and expenditure of the country together with the balance sheet at the end of every financial year. During these years the Financial Secretary has been listening to the various discussions that took place on the budget estimates presented by him and the various suggestions contained in those discussions. But it is surprising to find that these discussions have not had the least effect upon the present Financial Secretary, who, I think, has become enslaved to some stock notions and conceptions to which he has become familiar. So, he has become thoroughly incapable of assimilating the new suggestions. Under those circumstances, I even doubt whether any purpose will be served by entering into a detailed budget discussion. Generally speaking, it may be safely said that the present estimate also maintains many a chapter of unredeemed and unending blunders.

The budgetary problems facing several Governments all the world over are how to tide over the present economic depression, how to find better markets and better prices for home products, how to improve the condition of our agriculturists, how to find solutions to the precipitous fall in the commodity prices and how to end the banking troubles and so on. These are the important matters which are confronting the financiers of the world. These are the matters which wait solution in our country also. I ask whether the budget presented by the Financial Secretary even makes a passing reference to any one of these subjects. I have listened to the speech of the Financial Secretary covering 32 long pages. I confess I had not the patience to listen to the whole speech when delivered in this House, because the things which we expected to find are completely absent either in his speech or in his budget estimates.

[MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI.]

We may refer to the following paragraphs of the speech of the Financial Secretary while introducing the budget. Para 9 deals with Land Revenue, para 10 with Excise, para 13 deals with General Administration, para 17 with Industries, and in these important paragraphs where we expect him to deal with these subjects, absolutely there is nothing, not even a passing reference to those topics which are confronting Governments here and elsewhere. For example, Sir, to pursue the matter further I will just take one paragraph; that is paragraph 33 of his speech regarding Temple Entry Enquiry Committee:

"This Committee was constituted during the current year to enquire into and report on the question of temple entry. The Committee started work from 17th December 1932/3rd Dhanu 1108 and have issued a questionnaire to nearly 6,000 persons including owners and trustees of temples, representatives of associations, etc. Besides, for the purpose of eliciting public opinion the Committee have toured the state, camped at several places and examined witnesses representing different shades of opinion. The evidence thus collected is being printed. It may be necessary to hold a few more sittings for considering the materials collected and settling the lines on which the report is to be drafted. Provision has been made for the continuance of the Committee till the end of Chingam 1109."

This is the sort of treatment that every subject has received at the hands of the Financial Secretary. Sir, I ask in all humbleness, who expects him to give these details of a committee appointed by Government and who expects him to treat in the way all these subjects in the budget presented to this House? Nobody expects. Therefore the whole speech, is to adopt a term from Carlyle, 'dry as dust and it has to be left there not to be considered.

Then coming to the budget, Sir, His Highness the Maha Raja in his message to this House expects to work these institutions in such a way as to bring about a rehabilitation of agriculture and development of our industries and to level up the standard of the people so that we may secure the peace and prosperity which is the duty and justification of every Government. I ask this question; what has been done towards reaching this goal? Nothing has been done and the budget estimate presented to this House or the speech of the Financial Secretary means nothing. There is a report of the Land Revenue Department for the year 1107. It has nothing to say about the economic depression, about the banking problems, about the trade depression. The report has nothing to say about agriculture. That would lead any stranger to think that everything is normal in Travancore; and that the country has got over the economic depression. Therefore the Financial Secretary has got a balanced budget. Everything is well and good. That is the impression which a stranger has to gather from the speech as well as the budget presented to this House. And the report of the Excise Department and also the statistics volume for Travancore for 1107 would reveal the following sorrowful tales. That our import duty fell from Rs. 6 lakhs in 1106 to Rs. 5.7 lakhs in 1107, our export duty fell from Rs. 24 lakhs in 1106 to Rs. 17 lakhs in 1107.

Export duty from copra and cocoanut fell from Rs. 4 lakhs in 1106 to Rs. 1.7 lakhs in 1107 and that of cocoanut oil and punnack fell from Rs. 4.6 lakhs in 1106 to Rs. 2.7 lakhs in 1107. Naturally the Excise Commissioner is found bemoaning this fall in duties from the dutiable products of the cocoanut tree. And let us see what measures have been adopted to combat this evil. I may be excused, Sir, when I say the measures adopted during 1107 to combat this fall on duty probably on the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner were unwise and indiscreet. They have even tended to ruin the agriculturists in our State. It was found during the beginning of 1106 that Ceylon copra was successfully competing with Travancore copra and the margin of protection worked out to something like Bh. Rs. 2-10 annas. Subsequently towards the close of 1106 the tariff values were reduced and the margin of protection worked to Bh. Re. 1-15 annas 10 ps. That works out a total amount of Rs. 2.25 lakhs. Secondly, when it was found again that the Ceylon copra was successfully competing, the mill-owners at Alleppey were allowed a concession during 1107. By that concession they were enabled to carry on their business at the expense of the local producer and at the expense of the Government exchequer. I make this definite statement because the authorities or those people who are responsible for allowing this did not seriously think about the evils which will be the direct result of that concession allowed to the Alleppey mill-owners. The result of the concession was that there was a large import of Ceylon copra into the Alleppey Port and according to the figures I supplied, the Alleppey mill-owners stood to gain when compared with the mill-owner at Cochin, Bh. Re. 1-15-10 i. e., roughly Rs. 2 plus Bh. Rs. 2-13-0, the duty which Government had to forego on account of the concession per candy of cocoanut oil exported from Alleppey to Cochin. This indirectly induced the mill-owners at Alleppey to get more import of Ceylon copra than allowing them to make use of the local copra. For example suppose one candy of copra could be got at Cochin for Rs. 47. At Alleppey the price of copra will be Rs. 42 and the duty on copra is 4½ rupees, thus the difference being the export duty as well as the transport charges. From these figures it is clear that unless copra was available at Alleppey for Rs. 42 the Alleppey mill-owner will never go in for Ceylon copra. His profits thus became Re. 1-15 as. 10 ps. plus Rs. 2-13 annas which Travancore Government have to forego on account of duty concession. The result was that the Alleppey mill-owner was deliberately helped at the expense of the Travancore exchequer and the Travancore copra producer. He preferred Ceylon copra. He got down and stocked Ceylon copra at Alleppey and the oil and punnack which were exported to Cochin enabled him to gain 4 and odd rupee per candy at Cochin and thereby our poor producers were compelled to sell their copra below the margin of profit, because Ceylon copra was given a concession. The Alleppey mill-owners stood to gain by importing Ceylon copra. Therefore there was no demand for local copra and the poor producers of copra in Travancore suffered. If these circumstances did not engage the attention of the country, I ask the question whether it did engage the attention of the authorities or not.

[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

We discussed that question threadbare in this House and after the Ottawa Conference report we prevailed upon the Government to send urgent communications to the Government of India not to do anything which would adversely affect the local industry of cocoanut in Travancore. And the man in a position to know these things did not know it or never foresaw the far-reaching effect of the concession allowed to the Alleppey mill-owner. Beyond this, I don't say the concession allowed should be made to operate as a protection but it is the duty of our Government to see that the producer of Ceylon Copra is not placed at a better advantageous position compared with the producer of local copra. That has not been attempted. That has not been thought of even at the time the concession was allowed. There is yet another question. It is conceded by the authorities that the oil produced from our copra is superior to the oil of Ceylon copra. Therefore when Ceylon copra is imported into Travancore and the oil and punnack extracted therefrom were exported into foreign market, it indirectly affected the Travancore copra because nobody is going to recognise whether this oil is extracted from Ceylon copra or Travancore copra. It comes from Alleppey with Travancore label. Therefore the good name which the Travancore oil had was undermined. The result was that there was no price for the copra. Our agriculturists are hard hit. They do not even look to their cocoanut trees. Who is to care? I think it was our cry even from the very beginning that the old world conceptions will have to be given up and the old officers should not be appointed to the responsible place of Customs Officer. We want an expert man who is expected to know what is taking place in other parts of the world, with reference to trade, who could find a steady market for our local produce and a better price and from time to time secure our market and safeguard our local producer. For that we want a first-rate officer with an expert knowledge. In every country it is done by experts. But, here, an ordinary man, a clerk in the Secretariat is expected to do this work. And I am not surprised when the Excise Commissioner says that "I am very sorry that the dutiable export on cocoanut produce fell. Therefore our revenue suffered very heavily". Who can help it? Revenue will suffer and it will continue to suffer while such indifferent treatment is given to the very important question without intuition or forethought about the calamity which it may bring when a particular step is taken in a wrong direction. Leaving that subject,

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary for producing a surplus budget. It would have been much worse if he had produced a budget and if it had been a deficit budget; and that is why I congratulate him. Now I share the feelings with my Honourable friends of this House that the budget is only a string of figures. It does not contain as other budgets do contain the views of the Government regarding the resources of the country. Under the present system if you put in Snowden or Churchill there, he would be producing the same sort of budget for the

Travancore Government. The mistake lies in this. The Financial Secretary's position is dual. He is the Financial Secretary as well as the Account Officer. I draw the attention of Government to this fundamental mistake in placing these two positions under one hand. That can be compared only to the dual or triple position of the Dewan of Travancore. He is the Chief Minister of Travancore. He is the head of the Lower House and the President of the Upper House. Under such circumstances only such distorted and imperfect budgets are possible. I am not an admirer of the Government's policy of appointing committees. Government are pleased to form committees which conduct pompous tourings going round the country costing money to the tax payers. And what is the result? When the reports are presented, they are shelved coolly and when Honourable members are pressing, minor recommendations are said to be given effect to, and recommendations which generally cost money to Government are shelved. It is a very sorry and shameful state of affairs. I refer in particular to the recommendations of the Minor Irrigation Committee. That was a committee presided over by a very distinguished gentleman, the late Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar and a committee in which there was an official majority. I am surprised to find that the Government in spite of the information they have got in regard to the repeated floods in our country have not cared to give effect to the recommendations of that committee. They have recommended that at least Rs. 5 lakhs must be annually set for it. Now Government have provided only Rs. 2 lakhs. They have not taken pains to enquire whether it is due to the lack of attention paid to irrigational purposes that the floods come about.

Another committee's report the recommendations of which Government have discarded is that of the Law's Delays Commissioner. Regarding the establishment of a District Court at Mavelikara many recommendations have been made to the Government. Time after time excuses are put forward for not accepting the recommendations of these committees. No recommendation of the Law's Delays Commissioner has been given effect to. I would not wonder if in the next session of the legislature the Financial Secretary makes provision for the appointment of a Commissioner to enquire into the delays of the Government for not accepting the recommendations of the Law's Delays Commissioner. The Government do not seem to be profited by the lessons that have been preached to them by elected members of this House. They seem to have very great faith in the reserves at their disposal. Otherwise they would not have gone in for such luxuries as the Game Warden and the Deputy Darbar Physicianship. I am reminded of some passage in Sterne's "Sentimental Journey" where a man weeps at a dead donkey at the door after coolly allowing his mother to die of starvation at home. It may be no news to the Travancore Government that human species ought to be valued and preserved much more than the species in the forest whose interests are to be looked after by the warden of the forest.

[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

Another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this. The Financial Secretary has coolly accepted the cut made by the Lower House about the appointment of Income-tax Inspectors. This is a confession of failure of Government in the matter of working the Income-tax Department. In British India we find that proper officers are appointed to supervise the work of the Inspectors. Of course, in Travancore, they began it as an appendage to the Land Revenue Department. But when the work of Income-tax Officers became more, they ought to have appointed a separate Commissioner to supervise their work. They ought to have appointed some officers of experience and should have tried to tap the resources in that line. The ryot can no more be taxed. The Government have already bled him white. I can assure, as a member representing the biggest constituency in the State, that the Government cannot tax them any further. I am sure, Sir, that their condition is deplorable. If the Government will be pleased enough to look into the Banking Enquiry Committee's Report it will be found that the rural indebtedness is at a high figure. I am afraid that, if we continue to tax them further, agrarian discontent would be fostered which no organised Government can view with equanimity.

Before I close I again cry in the wilderness on the old Press Law. The Travancore Government may have more reformed legislatures but no impartial man will congratulate the Government as long as the Press Law is on the Statute Book. It is late in the day for me to speak about the advantages of a Free Press, and Gresham's Law is in operation in the newspaper world as well. If you throttle the press—honest and free expression of opinion—bad journals will drive good journals out of circulation. So my request is that they must extend all encouragement to the papers that are well conducted and remove this blot from the Statute Book. Has this been useful? Has it effected any good result? Journals are getting worse than before. Why should there be a Law in the Statute Book which does not bring about any good at all. On the other hand it is instrumental in degrading journals to the gutter. Before I close, I again urge upon Government the necessity of taking away this Press Law from the Statute Book.

MR. J. JOHN KATTAKAYAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): സർ, മലയാളത്തിൽ സംസാരിക്കാൻ എനിക്കനുവാദം തരണം.

സർ, സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനം അതിന്റെ മുർദ്ധന്യദശയെ പ്രാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ മിച്ചമുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സമർപ്പിച്ചതിൽ ധനകാര്യമന്ത്രിയെ തുലോം അഭിനന്ദിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നെ ശതമാനവും കർഷകന്മാരാണ്. ഇവരിൽ സിംഹഭാഗവും ദാരിദ്ര്യഭേദയുടെ നിർദ്വയമർദ്ദനമേറു് അ

മോരാത്രം വലയുന്നവരുമാകുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും നിയമിച്ച ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻക്വയറിക്കമ്മിറ്റിയും സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനാപേഷണകമ്മിറ്റിയും ഇതിന്റെ പരമാർത്ഥം ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ആനയെ ഒരുപരിയ കണ്ണാട്ടിയിലെന്നപോലെ പ്രതിബിംബിപ്പിക്കുന്നുമുണ്ട്. സഹകർണപ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളുടെ നിലയുയർപ്പിപ്പാൻ ആരായുവാൻ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടും ഈ വാസ്തവത്തെ രൂപമൂലമാക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിലും പക്ഷാന്തരമില്ല.

കഴിഞ്ഞ സെൻസസ് റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ചു ആളൊന്നക്കു നൂറു രൂപാ ഴ്വണഭാരവും രൂപാ നികുതിഭാരവും ഉള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. സാമ്പത്തികത്തള്ളൽ കാലത്തു കയ്യിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനുംപുറമെ എത്രത്തോളം കടംവാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ അതും അതിലപ്പുറവും വാങ്ങി അചിരേണ കബേരന്മാരാകുവാൻ വേണ്ടി വിപുലമായ തോട്ടങ്ങളും മറ്റും തുറന്നവരെ ഷൈലാക്ക് മനസ്ഥിതിയോടുകൂടിയ ഭരാഗ്രഹികളായ പണക്കാർ പാമ്പു തവളയെ എന്നപോലെ വിഴുങ്ങുന്ന അതിഭയനീയമായ കാഴ്ച എത്ര വജ്രഹൃദയനേയും തപിപ്പിക്കാതെയിരിക്കയില്ല.

ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വില വാണക്കുറ്റി നിലംപതിച്ചുപോലെ അധഃപതിച്ചതനോടുകൂടി കബേരന്മാരായിരുന്നവരിൽ പലരും കലേലന്മാരായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈവകകാരണങ്ങളാലും മറ്റും സക്കാർ ഗസറ്റിന്റെ ഏതുലക്കം നോക്കിയാലും അനേകം പേജുകൾ ഇൻസാറം ചെൻസി പെററിഷൻകൊണ്ടു നിരന്തരം നിബന്ധിതമായി കൊണ്ടുതന്നെയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ നിലയിൽ ഇനിയും കുറെക്കാലംകൂടെ മുൻപോട്ടു പോകുന്നതായാൽ മികച്ച ധനാധ്യന്മാരെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇപ്പോൾ വിചാരിക്കുന്ന കർഷകന്മാരും മറ്റും പ്രായേണ ഇക്കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുവാൻ സർവ്വഥാ അർഹന്മാരായിത്തീരാനാണുളപ്പം. താദൃശന്മാരെ ഴ്വണബാധയിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ നിലവിലിരിക്കുന്ന കൃഷിവായ്പയെ ഭൂസ്വത്തുജാമ്യബാങ്കൊ പര്യാപ്തമാകുന്നതുമല്ല. ഇവയെ വിപുലമാക്കണം.

ആഡംബരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പുലത്തുന്ന വ്യവസായധിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റും കൃഷിധിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റും നിറുത്തിയാലും അതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു വിഷമവും ആക്കം വരാനില്ല. മൃഗസാരക്ഷേപൻ പള്ളിവാസൽപലതി പട്ടണങ്ങളെ ധാടിയും മോടിയും പിടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ശ്രമം ഇവയിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ മനസ്സ് വ്യാപരിപ്പിക്കാതെ കൊഴുത്ത മാസപ്പടി വാങ്ങിച്ചു സുഖമായി കാലയാപനം ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ഗവണ്മെന്റുദ്യോഗി

[Mr. J. John Kattakayam.]

ഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഒരുഭാഗം കുറയ്ക്കുക, വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്തു അവർക്കു ഭീമമായ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കാതെ നാട്ടുകാരെ മിതമായ ശമ്പളത്തിൽനിയമിക്കുക, ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും വായ്പപത്രങ്ങൾ പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചു അതിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന തുകയും ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന്റെ ഗുണമോചനാർത്ഥം ഉപയോഗിക്കുക, ആദിയായ പലതും ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു മനസ്സുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ചെയ്തു ജനങ്ങളെ ധർമ്മസങ്കടത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്.

ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ തീരെ വിലയില്ല. നല്ല മാക്കറുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു ഇതിന്റെ ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തെ സിംഹഭാഗംജനങ്ങളും ഞെക്കുകൂഷിക്കാറാകുന്നു. സിലോൺകൊല്ലാ ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുകയാൽ നമ്മുടെ നാളികേരവില തീരെ അധഃപതിച്ചു. ഇറക്കുമതിഇനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായം ഇനിയെങ്കിലും കാര്യമായി കരുതാതെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അത് ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു പുണ്യമായിരിക്കും.

ചിട്ടി, പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം, വായ്പ, കൃഷിവായ്പ, കമ്പനിആദിയായി അനേകം കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ അകപ്പെട്ടു നട്ടംതിരിയുന്നു. ഇവരിൽ ഒരു വലിയഭാഗംപേർ ഭൂനികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുപോലും പ്രാപ്തിയുള്ളവരായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ഗസറ്റിന്റെ ഏതുപ്രതിഎടുത്തു നോക്കിയാലും ഭൂനികുതി ഈടാക്കേണ്ടതു സംബന്ധിച്ച കർശനനടപടികൾകൊണ്ട് ആകൃതിയിലും പ്രകൃതിയിലും ഭാരമുള്ളതായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. “പാൽകടം ഉടഞ്ഞതു പുച്ചയ്ക്ക് വിളയാട്ടം” എന്നവാദത്തിൽ കർശനശയന്മാരായ ചില വക്രബുദ്ധികൾ ഫലഭൂയിഷ്ടങ്ങളായ ഭൂമികൾ കൈനട്ടംകൊടുത്തു മേലത്തിൽകൊണ്ട് അനായാസേന വസ്തുളമസ്ഥന്മാരായും തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഹാ! എത്ര ദയനീയമായ ഒരു ചിത്രമാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ മുൻപിൽ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. ൩൩, ൧൦, ൦൦൦ രൂപാ ലാൻഡ് വസ്തുവിൽനിന്നും പ്രസ്തുതവർഷം ഈടാക്കുമെന്നു ധനകാര്യമന്ത്രി ആശിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽനിന്ന് എന്താണ് മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടത്? നികുതിയിൽത്തോതെ ആനുകൂല്യവും പ്രസ്തുതവർഷത്തിലും ഉണ്ടാകുവാൻ ഇടയില്ലെന്നല്ലയോ? സമീപരാജ്യമായ കൊച്ചു കൊച്ചിയെ ഏകിലും ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ അനുകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

പ്രതിനിധിസഭകളുടെ അറിവോ സമ്മതമോ കൂടാതെ ഗവണ്മെന്റു പലതും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുപോരുന്നു. റവന്യൂസെററിൽമെൻറാ ഫീസുകളുടെ നിയമനം, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരിഷ്കരണകമ്മറ്റിരൂപവൽക്കരണം മുതലായി പലതും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാണ്. കണ്ടെടുത്തിറുള്ള നടപടികൾ ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു കൂനികരു പോലായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൮൮൨-ാമാണ്ടു മാർച്ചുമാസം ൨൩-നു- അന്നത്തെ ടിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന ആണറബിൾ രാമയ്യങ്കാരവർകൾ ഭൂപട്ടത്തുടമസ്ഥന്മാരെ വിളിച്ചുവരുത്തി അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ അറിഞ്ഞതിനു ശേഷമാണ് കണ്ടെടുത്തു ആരംഭിച്ചത്. പ്രതിനിധിസഭകൾ ഇല്ലാതിരുന്ന അന്നത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെയും പ്രതിനിധിസഭകളുള്ള ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെയും മനുഷ്വമിതികൾ തമ്മിൽ എത്ര വ്യത്യാസമാണ് കാണുന്നത്. ബംഗാളിൽ സ്ഥിരമായ കണ്ടെടുത്തു നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇൻഡ്യയുടെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സ്ഥിരമായ കണ്ടെടുത്തു നടത്തണമെന്ന് പ്രക്ഷോഭം ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെയും ഇനയം സ്വീകരിക്കുകയാണ് വേണ്ടത്. പൊതുജനോപകാരപ്രദമായ ചില ചിലവുകളെ കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെക്കാൾ ഇക്കൊല്ലം കുറച്ചിട്ടാണ് ബഡ്ജറ്റ് വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് എന്ന സംഗതിയും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON (Kottayam): സർ, ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ആകപ്പാടെ പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കിയതിൽ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി യാതൊരുവധത്തിലുള്ള അഭിമാനത്തിനും അർഹനല്ല എന്നാണ് കാണുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങൾ സാവത്തികാധഃപതനം നിമിത്തം കടത്തിൽ മുഴുകി കിടക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അതിലേക്കു യാതൊരു പരിഹാരമാഗ്ഗവും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നിദ്ദേശിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ് അതിലേക്കു പ്രധാനകാരണം. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഭവനഗരം തുടങ്ങിയുള്ള ഏതദ്ദേശീയരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഋണമോചനത്തിനായുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണാം. മദ്രാസ്കൌൺസിലിൽതന്നെ കടംനിവാരണത്തിനായി ഒരു ബിൽ ഫോജാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുപോലുള്ള നിവാരണമാഗ്ഗങ്ങളൊന്നും നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെയ്യാത്തതു ശോചനീയമായ ഒരുസ്ഥിതിയെന്നയാകുന്നു.

എം. എൻ. മുതൽ ഈ കൊല്ലംവരെ മിക്കവാറും തുടർച്ചയായി നാട്ടിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു.

[Mr. M. N. Narayana Menon.]

ന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറു വെള്ളം കടലിലേക്കു ശരിയായി പോകുന്നതിനു പതിയതായി വല്ല ഉപാധികളും ചെയ്യയൊ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറ്റുപ്രകാരത്തിൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കയോ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. അതൊന്നും ചെയ്തില്ല. ഈ ആണ്ടു ഇടവമാസത്തിൽ ആരംഭിച്ച വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം കർക്കമാസമായിട്ടും അവസാനിക്കാതാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഇതിലേക്കു സ്ഥായിയായ വല്ല പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിർദ്ദേശിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

കഴിഞ്ഞആഴ്ച ഞാൻ ഇങ്ങോട്ടു പോയന്നു അവസരത്തിൽ കമറകത്തു വേമ്പനാട്ടുകായൽതീരവാസികളായ അനവധി പുലയരും മറ്റുള്ളവരും വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംനിമിത്തം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുപോയ അവരുടെ പുറകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ദയനീയമായ കാഴ്ച എനിക്കു കാണുന്നതിനിടയായി. “ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഭവനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു കുറെ മുളകളെങ്കിലും സൗജന്യമായി തരിയ്ക്കണം” എന്നു അവർ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞവർക്കു ഞാൻ ഇപ്പൊഴും സങ്കടത്തോടു കൂടി ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു. അവർക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടസഹായം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും പുറമെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കകാലത്തു ക്ഷാരിതാമസിക്കുന്നതിനും അവരുടെ കന്നുകാലികളെ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും കമറകം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ തറ ഉയർത്തിക്കൊടുക്കയും വേണം.

പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഏറ്റവും ദയനീയമാകുന്നു. കായൽ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ അവസ്ഥ അതിലും പരിതാപകരമത്രേ. അവർ യാതൊരു സഹായവും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു വെള്ളം വറ്റിക്കുന്നതിനാവശ്യമുള്ള മണ്ണെണ്ണ മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങൾ നഷ്ടമില്ലാത്തവിധത്തിൽ അവർക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കഴിയും. ഉദാഹരണമായി പറയുന്നപക്ഷം കൊച്ചിയിലെ കൃഷിക്കാരും മറ്റുതോട്ടക്കാരും ടൺ ഒന്നിനു ൩൦ രൂപ കൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന “ക്രൂഡായിൽ” ഇവിടത്തെ പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാർ ൮൦ രൂപ കൊടുത്താണ് വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നത്. കാരണം കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു മുഖാന്തിരം സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറും ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം നഷ്ടംകൂടാതെ ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരെ സഹായിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: ക്രൂഡായിലിനു കൊച്ചിയിലെ നിരക്കുവില എന്താണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON : അതു പിന്നീട് പറയാം.

കൃഷിക്കാരെത്തന്നെ പട്ടണത്തിന് ശരിയായ അത്ഭുതം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് കടക്കാൻ എന്നാണ്. അതായതു അവരുടെ കടത്താന്റെ തോതു് അത്ര അധികമാണ്. വിശേഷിച്ചും വേമ്പനാട്ടുകായൽകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ കായ്ക മാണു വലിയകപ്പും. അവരുടെ കരം, തറവില ഇതൊക്കെ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണ്. കായൽകൃഷിക്കു കരം ൧൩-ാംതരമാക്കിയും തറവില കുറച്ചും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. മറ്റുള്ളവക്കു പൊതുവെ ൨൫ ശതമാനം കരം കുറയ്ക്കുകയുംവേണം.

കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ വള്ളങ്ങളിന്മേൽ ചുമത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള വള്ളക്കരം അനാവശ്യമാണെന്നു പറയാതെത്തരമില്ല. അതിൽനിന്നും ഗണ്യമായ തുക ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ലഭിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളകാര്യവും സംശയമാണ്. ഒരു ഇരുപതു കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പ് പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾ ഏതാനുംപേർ മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിനെക്കണ്ടു സങ്കടം ഉണർത്തിക്കാനായി ഈ രാജധാനിയിൽവന്നു. ഒരുദിവസം രാത്രിമുഴുവനും ചാല പോലീസ് സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ അകപ്പെട്ടു. എന്നാൽ അന്നത്തെ പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറുടെ ദയവുകൊണ്ടു ദേഹോപദ്രവംകൂടാതെ അവിടെ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടി. ഇതിന്റെ ഒക്കെയും ഫലമായി ശ്രീമൂലംതിരുനാൾ മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിലെ കാരുണ്യാതിരേകത്താലും പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ വള്ളങ്ങൾ സൗജന്യമായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ കൃനാൽകാർ അനധികൃതമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും പ്രവേശിച്ചു വള്ളം ഫീസ് വാങ്ങി പതിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഇതു മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിലെ കല്പനയെ വിഫലമാക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല.

കൊപ്രയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മി. കെ. പി. നീലകണ്ഠപ്പിള്ള ഇവിടെ പറപ്പെടുത്തിയ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ ജനിച്ച് ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ മരിക്കേണ്ടയാളാണ്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഇവിടെത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരെക്കാൾ ചുരുക്കം ചില മില്ലുകാരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന്നു അദ്ദേഹം ഒരുമ്പെട്ടതിൽ എനിക്കു വളരെ മനസ്സാപമുണ്ട്. മില്ലുകാർക്കു അദ്ദേഹം മനസ്സോടുകൂടിയൊ മനസ്സറിയാതെയൊ ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്ത ഈ അനുകൂലം ൧൦ വു അവസാനത്തോടുകൂടി തന്നെ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കണേ എന്നാണ് എനിക്കദ്ദേഹത്തോടു ഒരുപേക്ഷയുള്ളതു്.

കണ്ടുകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ അവസ്ഥയും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാകുന്നു. മറ്റുകൃഷിക്കാർക്കെന്നതുപോലെതന്നെ അവർക്കു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ള

[Mr. M. N. Narayana Menon.]

തുകൊണ്ടു അവയുടെ കരത്തിന്നു ചുമത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള നിരക്കുവില ഇനിയും കുറയ്ക്കുകയും കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്നു അവക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള സമയം നിട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാവാവശ്യമാണ്.

ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള നികുതി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെയും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സങ്കടമില്ലാത്തതരത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്നു വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ കഴിയും. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെപ്പോലെ ഇത്രയധികം കടൽതീരമുള്ള മറ്റൊരു ഏതദ്ദേശീയ രാജ്യമില്ല. ഈ കടൽതീരത്തെ ഉപയോഗയോഗ്യമാക്കിത്തീർത്താൽ നമ്മുടെ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു ഇവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന മരിച്ചുപോയ സർ പി. രാജഗോപാലാചാരി ഒരിക്കൽ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൊച്ചിതുറമുഖം വന്നതോടുകൂടി കൊച്ചി മുതൽ ആലപ്പുഴവരെയുള്ള വേമ്പനാട്ടുകാലിന്റെ രണ്ടുകരകളും കച്ചവടത്തിന്നും വ്യവസായത്തിന്നും സൗകര്യമുള്ളതാക്കിത്തീർത്താൽ ഇവിടത്തെ കച്ചവടം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുന്നതിനിടയാകും.

പുത്തൻ കണ്ടെഴുത്തുതുടങ്ങാൻ പോകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ സങ്കടപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ കണ്ടെഴുത്തുതുടങ്ങുന്നതിന്നുമുമ്പായി അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു മെമ്മോറാണ്ടം പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ? കണ്ടെഴുത്തു തുടങ്ങാനുള്ള അവസരവും തെറ്റിപ്പോയി എന്നു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഉപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ആവശ്യത്തിന്നുപുറമെ അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേക്കും ഇവിടെതന്നെ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കി അയക്കാൻ കഴിയും. ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കൂലങ്കഷമായി പരിശോധിക്കണം. ഇതിന്നുപുറമെ ഉപ്പുവകുപ്പിവിശ്വനായ റൊളിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിൻ കീഴിലാക്കിയാൽ നന്നായിരിക്കും. കസ്റ്റംസ് വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും എന്റെ സ്റ്റേമാതൻ മി. കെ. പി. നീലകണ്ഠപ്പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വകുപ്പും പ്രത്യേകമാക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഈ സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനകാലത്തു് ഇന്നത്തേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ജനങ്ങളിൽ ചുമത്തരുതു്. ഒന്നാമതു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെയും രണ്ടാമതു അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറച്ചും ചിലവു ചുരുക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും ഒരു ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയറെ വരുത്താൻ പോകുന്നതായി കേൾക്കുന്നു. വിദേശികളെ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തുന്നതുനിമിത്തം ന്യായമായി കിട്ടേണ്ട പ്രമോഷൻ ലഭിക്കും.

കാത്ത കീഴ്ജോഗസ്ഥനാക്കു നിരാശയുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനും അതുനിമിത്തം കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു ഹാനിപ്പെടുന്നതിനും പുറമെ നമ്മുടെ ചിലവു വലിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള കാര്യംകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഓർക്കണം കീഴ്ജോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെയിടയിലുള്ള നിരാശ കാര്യക്ഷമതയെ സാരമായി ബാധിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നുള്ളതു പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാണ്.

ടോളിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ ജനങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ പെടോളിനു പ്രത്യേകം ലൈസൻസു പച്ച നികുതിപുറത്തിയാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വരുവുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനും ജനങ്ങൾ ഭവദ്രവംകരയുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകും.

വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംനിമിത്തം ആണ്ടുതോറും എം. സി. റോഡിനു ധാരാളം കേടുവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. പ്രതിവർഷം പത്തുനാലുതുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുന്ന പൊതുമരാമത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനു ഈ റോഡിനെ സംരക്ഷിക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ളതു ഏറ്റവും ശോചനീയമായ ഒരു സ്ഥയാകുന്നു.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഒരു സംഗതി പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു ദിവാൻജിയെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഡയറക്ടർ വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറാലോചിക്കാത്തതു വളരെ കഷ്ടതന്നെ. നാട്ടുഭാഷക്കാവശ്യമുള്ളിടത്തോളം പ്രാധാന്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറു നൽകുന്നില്ല. പ്രൈവറുവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളെ വേണ്ടവിധം പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ ഫിനി ഉപഭാഷയായ് പഠിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. വായനശാലകൾക്കു ധാരാളം ഗ്രാൻറുനൽകുന്നവിഷയത്തിലും നിശാപാഠശാലകളെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നവിഷയത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെൻറു താല്പര്യം കാണിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളിൽനിന്നും ഈടാക്കിവരുന്ന ഫീസ് ഉളരെ കൂടുതലാണ്. അതു കുറക്കാത്തപക്ഷം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും മുന്നണിയിൽ നിൽക്കുന്നു എന്നു നാം അഭിമാനിച്ചുവരുന്ന തിരുവ്താംകൂറിന്റെ പ്രശസ്തിക്കു സാരമായ ഹാനിപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. അതായതു് ഫീസ് ഈ നിരക്കിൽതന്നെ ഈടാക്കുകയും, സാമ്പത്തികാധാരത്തിനു ശമനം ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്താൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംചെയ്യുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതായി തീരും.

[Mr. M. N. Narayana Menon.]

കൂടുതൽ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്തുകളുടെ സ്ഥാപനവും, അവയുടെ പ്രോത്സാഹനവും ഇക്കാലസ്ഥിതിക്കു ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാഗമമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രധാനമായി ഉതകുന്ന പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘവകുപ്പിലേക്കു വേണ്ട പ്രോത്സാഹനം ഗവണ്മെൻറു നൽകുന്നില്ല. ധനേതരസംഘങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ഇവിടെ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കോവാപ്പറേറീവ് കോളനികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനു തക്കസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രോത്സാഹനം അർഹിക്കുന്ന അനുജോഗസ്ഥസ്ഥാപനമായ പരിശുദ്ധനാണെകൃസംഘങ്ങൾക്കു, രണ്ടായിരം സംഘങ്ങളെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന യൂണിയൻ സംഘങ്ങൾക്കു ൩ ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപമാത്രമാണ് ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ സഹായധനം നൽകുന്നതിനായി ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ തുക തീരെ മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല.

നമ്മെ സർവ്വപ്രധാനമായി ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നവിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു യാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ ചെയ്യുകാണുന്നില്ല. മി. പിറവിപ്പെരുമാൾപിള്ള ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചതുപോലെ റയിൽവേയിൽ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടുകാർക്കു അർഹിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ഉദ്യോഗം നൽകുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ളതും ഒരു പരമാത്ഥമാണ്. ൪ ൦ ൦ ൦ ൦ -ൽ പരം ആളുകൾ സൌത്ത് ഇൻഡ്യൻ റയിൽവേയിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായുണ്ട്. നാം കൊടുക്കുന്ന പണത്തിനു തക്കവണ്ണം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടുകാർക്കു റയിൽവേയിൽ ഉദ്യോഗം നൽകുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട ശ്രമം ചെയ്യണം. അതുപോലെതന്നെ നമ്മുടെ പണമുടക്കുപോലെ കൊച്ചിതുറമുഖത്തിലും ഈ നാട്ടുകാർക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ഉദ്യോഗം നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്.

ജനങ്ങൾക്കുപകാരപ്രദമായ വലിയ ഒരു പദ്ധതി ഗവണ്മെൻറു തുടങ്ങിയതിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അനുജോദിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത് പള്ളിവാശൽ വൈദ്യുതപദ്ധതിയെയാണ്. അതു എളുപ്പം നാട്ടിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തണം. തന്നിമിത്തം പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ വെള്ളംവറ്റിക്കുന്നതിനു വലിയ സഹായമായി തീരുന്നതിനും പുറമെ അനേകം ചെറുവ്യവസായങ്ങൾ നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുന്നതിനും സാധിക്കും.

പ്രതിവർഷം ഏഴുരുകോടി രൂപയുള്ള പുകയില ഇവിടെ ചിലവാകുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. ഇതു ഇവിടെ കൃഷിചെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കാവുന്ന

ഒരു സാധനമാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനസ്ഥിതി നന്നാവുകയും ചെയ്യും. അതിലേക്കു ഗവണ്മെന്റോ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റോ തുനിഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നില്ല.

മന്നാങ്കളെ മുതലായ പുതുവൽഭൂമികളിൽ പത്തേക്കറിൽ കുറയാതെ ഭൂമി ഓരോരുത്തർക്കായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു കൂട്ടായിട്ടു കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെന്റു വേണ്ട പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇത്ര വളരെ കടൽതീരമുള്ള ഈ രാജ്യത്തു മത്സ്യവ്യവസായത്തെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ നമ്മുടെ സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതി കുറെ നന്നാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിൽ യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. ഇവയൊക്കെയും ഞാഴിയില്ലായ്മയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതും സാമ്പത്തികാഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതുമാകുന്നു.

സർ, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും നാഗരീകത്വവും ധാരാളമുള്ള നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു പ്രസ്തുത നമ്മുടെ നിയമകോടികളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ കിടക്കുന്നതു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനു ഒരു തീരാത്ത കളങ്കമാണ്. അതിനാൽ അതും ഉടൻ നടി റദ്ദ് ചെയ്യണം.

കൗൺസിലും അസംബ്ലിയും കൂട്ടുന്നതിലേക്കായി പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു ഹാൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാകുന്നു. ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റുയോഗത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യത്തെ ദിവസം ഞങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഹോദരസാമാജികന്മാരായ അസംബ്ലി മെമ്പർമാരുംകൂടി ഒന്നിച്ചു സമ്മേളിക്കുന്നതിനു ഇവിടെ സ്ഥലം തീരെ മതിയാകാതെയാണ് കണ്ടതു്. ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കുന്നതൊ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റാലോചിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ കേട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതൊ ആയ സ്ഥലത്തു - ഫജർകച്ചേരിയോടുചേർന്നു കിഴക്കോട്ടു- ഒരു ഹാൾ പണിയിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. കിഴക്കുവശമുള്ള മൈതാനവും ഇതിനു ഉപയോഗിക്കാം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു സഭാസമയത്തു ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാകാതെ തരമില്ല. എന്നാൽ മറ്റുജോലികൾക്കു കൂടി അവർക്കു നിവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഫജർകച്ചേരിയോടു ചേർത്തുതന്നെ ഈ ഹാൾ പണിയിക്കുന്നതു സൗകര്യമാണ്. ഇതിലേക്കു മാത്രം ഒരു സപ്ലിമെന്ററി ഗ്രാൻറു ഗവണ്മെന്റു ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നപക്ഷം അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അനുവദിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഈ വിഷയത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI (*Tovala cum Agastisvaram*): Sir, on a perusal of the budget, one feels sadly disappointed; for, it does not in any way enlighten us whether Government have cared to pay attention to the most important problem of the day, the problem which is engaging all Governments in the world. The problem I mean is that of the poor agriculturists. Of all classes

[Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai.]

of people, it is the agricultural community who has been affected most heavily by world-wide economic depression. Travancore is mainly an agricultural country and the agricultural community forms the bulk of the population. Agriculture is the chief source of revenue and it is the agricultural community that is the backbone of a country. Under such circumstances if the Government are not prepared to render adequate relief to the agricultural community, I am afraid, serious consequences will arise. Confusion and danger are likely to arise in the administration of our country. It is painful to remark that the attitude of our Government towards the poor ryots is one of indifference. This is best evident in the much neglected south Travancore and especially Nanjinad which I have the misfortune to represent. Nanjinad has been for a long time groaning under an oppressive system of taxation. In the matter of taxation as in so many other things, it is being treated with step-motherly affection by the Government. The assessment is even heavier than that of the fertile plains of the Indus, the Ganges or the Cauvery. Nowhere in India is land assessed at more than Rs. 20 per acre, while we in Nanjinad have to pay Rs. 28, Rs. 30 and even Rs. 32 per acre.

In this connection I would like to point out to the House a long-felt grievance of the people of Nanjinad, viz., the unjust and illegal exaction of tax from the ryots of Nanjinad in excess of what is legally due from them as per the Settlement, based on a mistake committed in the process of adjusting the *para* measurement in terms of *kotta* which is in vogue specially in Nanjinad. Taxes were first paid in kind. In about 1014, half the tax was commuted into money at the rate of six chackrams per *para*; and in about 1082 the other half was commuted into money payment, at the rate of eleven chackrams per *para*. But in adjusting the *para* measurement to the *marakkal* of Nanjinad, Government committed a mistake. Instead of calculating one *kotta* as being equivalent to seven *paras*, as per the settlement, Government have calculated it at nine *paras* and three and five-eighths *edangalies* for the first half and eight *paras* and six *edangalies* for the second half. Under this wrong calculation, every year, Government are realising a large amount of tax in excess of what is legally due to them. Sir, it is not a case of acquiescence or willing submission by the people. This error was brought to the notice of Government as early as 1080 or 1081; and the matter has since been agitated, year after year, in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council; but nothing has been done up till now.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): May I ask the member whether there is no other inequality between the assessment in Nanjinad and the assessment in other parts of Travancore?

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI: There are; taxation is much heavier in Nanjinad than in other parts of the country.

The present plight of the ryots in Nanjinad is simply lamentable. The large scale import of Rangoon paddy and the conversion of dry

land into wet land for paddy cultivation and the formation of old forests into Reserves and such other things work greatly against the paddy grower of Nanjinad. The closing of the forests against the agriculturist who was collecting green manure from there has deprived him of his only source of manure; and the soil also is growing more and more unproductive. To add to all these the price also has fallen terribly. Therefore the average net annual income per acre of paddy land has dwindled down to rupees twenty per acre as could be seen from paragraph 82 of the Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee. To add fuel to fire, Government have now established two toll-gates, one at Suchindram and another at Anjugramam. Sir, this is really an indirect taxation on the poor ryots of south Travancore. These two gates have been auctioned away for about twenty thousand rupees; and all this has to be paid by the poor agriculturists in Nanjinad because, as manure is not available locally and has to be brought in from British India in cart loads, every one of these carts which has to pass the Anjugramam frontier and then through Suchindram, has to pay these tolls. It is in Suchindram that the manure so brought down from British India is distributed to the villages in the neighbourhood.

On account of these and other difficulties the ryots of Nanjinad are getting more and more indebted, and, day by day, their jewels are being pledged with money lenders. I beg to point out that unless Government come to the rescue, serious consequences will result.

In the light of the facts that I have mentioned I cannot say that the budget really indicates prosperity and sound financial condition. It is built upon the ruins of the family budgets of several of the tax-payers.

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, the budget presented to us seems to be a surplus budget; but whether it will really turn out to be so remains to be seen. If the present economic depression continues and if the Government do not come in to help the tax-payer, I am sure, that it will not end as a surplus budget.

Sir, certain important factors have to be borne in mind in framing the budget and taxing the people. The Government have first to consider whether the tax-payer is financially in good condition. What is the financial position of the tax-payer; is it healthy? Does he stand in need of any relief? These factors have to be taken into consideration in preparing the budget as well as in taxing the people. Unless the tax-payer is financially solvent and healthy, it is very difficult for him to pay the tax due to Government readily and in time. There is no use accusing him that he does not pay in time, if, owing to factors beyond his control, he is really not able to pay. It is admitted by the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee that the depression which started in 1104 has been continuing like that, unabated, ever since. The World Economic Conference has also failed in arriving at a solution of the problem; and we do not see any prospect of escape from the depression in the near future. A reference to our

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

Government Gazette, to the part relating to Land Revenue, will convince you, Sir, of the real situation in the country. Of late, this part of the Gazette has been swelling abnormally in its size and we usually find now-a-days hundred to hundred and seventy-five pages generally; and most of these pages are devoted to the publication of the lists of defaulters of Government revenue. I have been calculating the number of such defaulters whose names have appeared in one or two Gazettes. They range from one thousand two hundred to one thousand seven hundred in number. And each list is published only once; but the process is being continued week after week. I have also been trying to ascertain the amount of tax these defaulters have left unpaid. In most cases it is a little over one rupee. Even in such cases the immovables of the defaulters have been frequently attached and sold in auction. But, in most cases sales have not taken place for want of bidders. It is seen from the budget that Rs. 3,25,000 remains as arrears to be collected, of which Rs. 25,000 form current arrears and Rs. 3 lakhs form past arrears. In regard to these arrears also Government are taking coercive steps in their attempt to realise their dues to the last pie. Still in most cases they are not able to find bidders at the auctions. Sir, default is made in payment of land revenue, not because the people are unwilling or grudge to pay but because they are utterly unable to pay. It is an elementary principle of taxation that the tax-payer is to pay as tax only a part of the produce from land. That is a recognised principle as could be seen from the fact that in the very early days of taxation, taxation was in kind only. It was only later that part of it was commuted into money payment; and now the whole of it is in money. It was mainly due to the difficulty, both of the tax-payer and for the Government, in measuring out the portion of the produce due as tax, that the people agitated for the commutation of payment in kind into payment in cash. And what was the rate of commutation? It was fixed at eleven chackrams per *para* when the market price of paddy was about twenty chackrams. The tax-payer had therefore absolutely no difficulty in making a money payment of the tax due. Now, what is the market price of paddy? It ranges from eight to nine chackrams. Very recently about three thousand *paras* of paddy had to be sold in public auction in the Perumbavur Court. After a good deal of advertisement and trouble on the part of the court they were able to realise only at the rate of nine and a half chackrams per *para*. Deducting from that a chackram per *para* for transport to the court house, the price comes to about eight and a half chackrams per *para*. Still the tax is now collected at the old rate of eleven chackrams per *para* which was adopted at a time when paddy was selling in the market at about twenty chackrams. Sir, the cultivator is not at all responsible for the universal fall in the price of commodities. In these circumstances, how can we expect him to pay?

Formerly, property yielding about thirty *paras* of paddy would easily fetch a thousand rupees. That was the price some seven or eight years ago. Now if we invest money on property, for a thousand rupees we can get property yielding one hundred and twenty *paras* of paddy.

The price of property has gone down and the price of commodities has gone down. So, unless the tax-payer is given help he cannot be expected to pay the amount due to Government.

In the case of cocoanut gardens also the situation is the same. It is admitted that about 43 per cent. of the export duty comes from cocoanut products. My friend Mr. Nilakanta Pillai has dealt with the difficulties of the cocoanut producer in detail, and I fully endorse his views. The Financial Secretary himself admits in his budget speech that there is decline in the export of cocoanut. The consumption of Ceylon copra shows an increase to the extent of about Rs. 1,75,000. The Financial Secretary merely says that there is a decline in the export of copra but does not give figures, probably because if the figures are given out it will paint in very deep colours the really hard lot of the cocoanut planters. That is perhaps the reason why he has not given the actual figures.

Sir, what have the Government done to relieve the cocoanut planters? Absolutely nothing. In regard to copra at the time when the prevailing rate of export duty was fixed, the price of cocoanut was ranging between Rs. 50 and 60 per thousand, whereas the present market price ranges between Rs. 20 and 30 only. In these circumstances, to exact the old duty is unfair and detrimental to the development of the industry.

Sir, the popular notion is that the import of Ceylon copra has done a great deal of mischief to the export of our own copra. Unless the Excise Commissioner explains to us in detail how the import of Ceylon copra does not harm the export of the local produce, I submit we have to accept the common notion that it is causing a good deal of difficulty to the local producer and I request him to explain how the import of Ceylon copra is justified and how it does not affect the cocoanut cultivators.

In these days of economic distress, what has been done by the Government towards the relief of the distress? One way in which the Government could have helped the poor is by distributing the P. W. grants fairly throughout the State, in places where there are works to be carried out, instead of investing a huge sum in a single scheme like the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. How far the scheme is going to work successfully on a commercial basis is a matter not free from doubt. Whatever that may be, at this stage, I request the Government that, in the matter of giving contracts for the execution of the scheme, preference should be given as far as possible to the sons of the soil. In the distribution of money for public works, the Government

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

have not fairly considered the needs of all the taluks in the State. For a particular place where there is a good deal of agitation the amount that is asked for is granted. That is being continued for some days till the agitation stops. Then it is neglected. That is what we sometimes find here. As far as my constituency is concerned the necessity for a court house was brought to the notice of Government and was sanctioned as early as 1915. An amount of Rs. 18,680 was sanctioned to the court house. It is now being conducted in the old Satram building which is unsafe and inconvenient. Clients, clerks and even the Vakils who go to court have to take shelter under the banyan tree. Notwithstanding the sanction of Government in 1915, not even a single pie has been allotted for this. What is the income from that institution? On an average there is a net income of Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 to the Government every year. From the Judicial Department of the whole State the net income of Government comes to more than Rs. 7 lakhs. What is the budget allotment that we find under Public Works for the Judicial Department? It is only Rs. 3,220. That is a very small sum. The construction of a District Court at Trivandrum has long ago been sanctioned. Why are these works postponed? No explanation is given. Again, it can be seen that a large portion of the Perumbavur-Alwaye road and the Alwaye-Parur road is under water during the major part of the year's monsoon season. The Anchal and the Mail vans have to pass through these roads. From Mithunam to Kanni every year we find that Anchals and Mails are delayed because the roads are under water. A single opening of the Periyar dam is sufficient to inundate the roads. This is a recurring nuisance for the two taluks every year. What has been done by Government to remove this trouble? What I would submit in this connection is that the P. W. grants ought to be distributed in such a manner that it might benefit all the taluks. I do not say that it is to be distributed proportionate to the revenue or to the square miles or even population ignoring the needs. I only want to bring to the notice of the Government that the real needs of all taluks should be attended to.

Another consideration that ought to be kept in mind by the Government in framing the budget is the health of the inhabitants of the State. It is very regrettable to find that in the whole of the Parur taluk we have only one hospital. In the whole of the Kunnatnad taluk we have only one dispensary. The total area of the taluk comes to 366½ sq. miles and the contribution to the revenue is Rs. 1,65,000. Such a big taluk with a very big area possesses only one medical institution which can admit in-patients. There is only a dispensary at Perumbavur. In one of the pamphlets issued to-day we find that the health question ought to be a prominent question. Unless the State maintains the subjects in a proper healthy condition and also in a sound financial position how can the State expect its subjects to pay their debts? Take for instance the case of a sickly man or a debtor who

could not raise money. Will he care for the interest of himself and his family or will he go in for payment of debts? That is the position now. Proper attention is not paid to the health of the subjects in all parts of the State. The financial difficulties of the people are ignored. This kind of attitude of the Government is regrettable.

Sir, everybody was anxious to see that something was announced by the Government towards the relief of the economic distress, some sort of relief measures. But to our disappointment we find absolutely nothing. On the contrary the budget shows that the Government are determined to realise the last pie because they have to meet a very high expenditure. The preparation of the budget, I beg to submit, is on the basis that a particular amount has to be spent. First the amount to be spent is budgeted and then the means of meeting it are created. That ought not to be the case. Sir, we have to find out first what the legitimate sources of our income are, and then we must adjust the expenses to our resources. But here we see the expenses are first calculated, and then measures to exact that amount from the poor rate-payers are framed. That is a very deplorable state of affairs. The Government should first of all ascertain the revenue that they can reasonably hope to get during the year and then the expenditure side of the budget should be drafted. If such a policy had been adopted, much of the criticism could have been avoided.

PRESIDENT: You have exceeded your time, Mr. Narayana Aiyar.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, while all over the world, expert financiers find it difficult, on account of the present world depression, to balance the State Budgets, our Financial Secretary has every reason to congratulate himself on his brilliant success in presenting a surplus budget before the House. But, we, the representatives of the tax-payers on this side of the House, cannot conscientiously congratulate the Financial Secretary. A surplus budget shows that more revenue is collected from the people than is actually needed for running the Government. It also shows another important fact, namely, that the collection work has been carried on by the various departments most severely and effectively and to the great heart-burning of the people at large.

The last few years have been years of continuous economic depression, and the year that has just now closed has been a famine year. Owing to the fall in the price of paddy, copra, coir, pepper and dry ginger, etc., there has been growing poverty among the people. Unfortunately, this growing poverty finds no official recognition. It is strange, Sir, that, while the speech of the Cochin Financial Secretary contains a note of sadness due to depression, our Financial Secretary has no word to tell us about depression.

When all over the world, owing to the wide economic depression, retrenchment is effected in all directions with a severe hand, in Travancore, much to our surprise and greatly to our regret, what we

[Mr. M. N. Parameswaran Pillai.]

find is a top-heavy administration much costly for our revenues. When all other Governments around us make substantial cuts in the salaries of their officers our Government have not only been increasing such salaries but creating new appointments. One peculiar feature of Travancore administration is the creation of new offices for providing men who find favour with Government for some reason or other, and in very many cases such offices are filled with superannuated people. It would appear that some of these superannuated people have of late become indispensable beings in the eyes of Governments. In the budget for 1109 we find that provision is made for the creation of a number of posts mostly for retired, superannuated people, *viz.*, the Settlement Officer, the Game Preservation Officer, and the Assistant Director in the Public Health Department. This policy of robbing Peter and paying Paul is a policy against which, Sir, this House has to enter its respectful protest.

While economic depression is staring us at every stage, it is really astounding to hear from the Financial Secretary, assurances of advancing prosperity. When thousands of our people go about without even a morsel of food to eat, without proper clothing, and when their properties are being attached and sold for arrears of revenue, it is really heart-rending to see our officers, who draw high and fat salaries comfortably driving in Dodge, Erskine, and Essex motor cars.

The growth of revenue under abkari and stamps is mentioned as indicating increasing prosperity. The growth of abkari revenue, to the extent to which it is secured by increased consumption, only shows that there is increased drunkenness in the country. This means increased misery and is thus the very reverse of an indication of increasing prosperity. Further abkari revenue is an immoral revenue and no pie of it should be allowed to be mixed up with the State revenues. The increased receipt of revenue under court fee stamps only means an increase in litigation which undoubtedly shows that the people are quarrelling more and it is no proof of their growing richness.

Well, Sir, Travancore is rightly called the land of charity. Although the people have very little to keep the wolf from the door, yet they would be found willing to surrender their everything for replenishing the State coffers. The bulk of the revenue from drink comes from the poor classes. Under Stamps, Registration, Forest, and Customs they pay more than their share. The salt tax also presses with undue severity on them. In fact the only burden from which they are altogether free is the income-tax and the proceeds under this item are comparatively small. Taking the whole scheme of taxation, we find that the share of the burden of the poor is relatively much heavier than that of the middle and upper classes. Now all these burdens break the back of the peasantry. I would, therefore, urge for a general reduction in the salaries of officers so as to make it possible for Government to reduce the existing rates of taxation.

Every year the Financial Secretary has been able to present a surplus budget. When a surplus is realised, it is clear, as I said a little while ago, that the Financial authorities have taken from the taxpayers more money than was actually required. Let this excess go back, Sir, to the people in the form of expenditure on improved sanitation. I think this is an eminently just plea, a plea whose force should be recognised in the best interests of the people.

It will not do for the Government to say that sanitation is the concern of municipalities and that it is for them to find the money required to improve it. You know, Sir, the finances of most of the municipalities are disorganised and poor and that it is with difficulty that they are able to perform their most elementary duties. They are, under the present state of their financial position, unable to grapple with any problem of improved sanitation without the substantial assistance from Government. Government can come to their rescue in two ways. They can either vote a large permanent annual grant or place their annual surpluses at the disposal of the municipalities in order that they might use them for carrying out projects of sanitary improvement. I would also, in this connection, suggest another point for the earnest and anxious consideration of Government, namely, whether it is not possible for them to surrender to the municipalities the land revenue accruing from lands situated in municipal limits. This, I think, would relieve the municipalities to a considerable extent from their financial embarrassments.

It is a matter of consolation, Sir, that 25 per cent. remission was granted with regard to post settlement ayacut lands in Tovala and Agastisvaram and that coercive proceedings were suspended in some localities in Kuttanad. But the state of the agricultural industry of the country and the unprecedented failure of crops in many other places due to the much devastating floods of 1108 do require the extension of the concession to those places also. It has also to be noted with regret that process fees, fines and forfeitures brought in Rs. 98,000 in 1107 and an estimate of Rs. 75,000 has been made for 1109, so that it is clear that there is no idea on the part of Government to relax the usual coercive measures even in view of the prevailing economic depression.

The proposed resettlement would be *ultra vires*. The tax fixed at the last Settlement was made permanent for a period of 30 years. Section 31 of the Proclamation dated 14-7-1061 is to this effect: "In short no interference of any kind will be permitted with the new Settlement, when it is completed, for the next 30 years". The last Settlement was completed only in 1911. How could a resettlement be commenced before 1941. A resettlement in the near future is not at all desirable from the point of view either of Government or of the ryots. The Government can rest content with its surplus budgets and huge cash balances. While there is a plethora of money in the State coffers, why should a re-settlement or re-survey be commenced to augment the burdens and grievances of the agricultural population. We rightly apprehend that the settlement operations will open the flood gates

[Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

of litigation, and let loose the blood hounds of the Settlement Department. The horrors perpetrated by many of them at the last Settlement have not been completely effaced from the memories of the poor ryots. At any rate the matter does not appear to be so very urgent as to require the appointment of a Special Officer and staff for the mere purpose of drawing up a memorandum. The preparation of a memorandum or the inauguration of a policy for resettlement does not appear to be work of such a peculiar nature as cannot be entrusted to the Land Revenue Commissioner.

Travancore is notoriously and culpably guilty in spending fabulous sums for getting down specially trained experts. How many are in the civil list, Sir? Soon after such persons return from their studies they are practically shelved to some corner of a department where they rot and where they are ever denied the opportunity of proving themselves useful to the country. Their retention in the civil list is nothing but an ornament. Take for instance the present Sanitary Commissioner who possesses high degrees and diplomas both English and American. He possesses, I understand, the highest health qualifications in the whole of India and yet he was shelved for some time, Sir, in some corner of the Vilavankod taluk to prepare the vital statistics, a work which was once done by our Proverthicars; and after the amalgamation of the Sanitary Department with the Public Health Department which is proposed to be effected from this year, I understand that he is again to be shelved under an Assistant Director of Public Health, who is superannuated and who has absolutely no health qualifications.

It is also painful to note that the country has been continuously drained of crores of rupees for the past several years for the importation of tobacco from Jaffna, Coimbatore and Tinnevely and also for snuff, cigars, cigarettes, beedies and other Indian manufactured tobacco. It is a pity that our Government do not take any steps to check this drain by the cultivation of tobacco in Travancore itself.

The increase of 1.75 lakhs of rupees during 1108 under import duty is said to be mainly due to the import of copra from Ceylon. The effect of this large scale importation upon the local producers has not at all been adverted to in the Financial Secretary's statement. At the same time it is admitted that there is a slight decrease in the exports of cocoanut, coir, cocoanut oil and dry ginger, &c. It is rather painful to observe that there has, however, been no attempt made to investigate the causes of the said decline. In the interest of local producers, the import duty on copra should be raised to prevent foreign competition and export duty on indigenous products such as cocoanut, coir, cocoanut oil, etc. should be reduced.

The creation of the office of the Game Warden is unnecessary, except it be, as I said before, to provide some individual whom Government want to favour. There is already the Game Protection Regulation and the Government have only to give effect to its provisions. The Conservator of Forests is not an over worked officer and, it may

suggest to all reasonable men that the preservation of games as a forest produce should be one of the legitimate duties of the Conservator of Forests.

The lapse of about 1.23 lakhs of rupees in 1107 provided for "Miscellaneous Public Works" does not bring credit to the Public Works Department, especially in view of the economic depression prevailing in the country. The amount, if expended, would have afforded considerable relief to the poor and it is one of the admitted methods of extending relief by Government in times of famine. The policy of allowing lapse of funds especially in the P. W. D. should not be encouraged.

Although our State has invested large sums in the Railway enterprise, and although several miles of railway run through this State, the material benefit that the State has derived is practically nothing. Every year the Financial Secretary has dinned into our ears that the working of the Railway has resulted only in loss. It is high time, Sir, that the Railway accounts are carefully audited by our Government. Another grievance is that the Government are not taking any interest to secure adequate representation in the Railway service for Travancoreans. Travancore is entitled to get adequate representation in that service proportionate to the financial commitments she has made in the Railway enterprise. This, to some extent, I think, will solve the unemployment problem in the State.

The classification of Kandukrishi lands as the personal property of His Highness the Maharaja may perhaps lead to very many complicated and serious constitutional and legal questions similar to those that arose for consideration in 38 T. L. R. 203. Such lands may be classified as the private property of His Highness the Maharaja, but it is a matter for earnest and serious consideration, whether they could be the personal property over which His Highness has absolute proprietary rights. Whether the Kandukrishi revenue, which was hitherto being mixed up with State revenues with the consent of the Rulers, could now be transferred in the manner proposed by the Financial Secretary is also a great constitutional and legal question which should also engage the earnest attention of the authorities.

The transfer of Agrasala, Mofussil Oottupuras, Othoottu and Japadakshina to the major head "Devaswoms" from "State Charities," does not appear to have been made on any sound principle. These items of expenditure have more of the character of charities than of religious observances. These items have practically no features distinguishing them from such items as "Dharma Kanji" or "Dharma-pullu" which are still maintained under "State Charities". The provision of Rs. 98,000 for supplies, services and contingencies under Japadakshina and Rs. 1,500 for religious discourse and Rs. 20,000 for extraordinary expenditure, require explanation.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-35 and re-assembled at 2-13 P. M.

MR. M. GOVINDAN : Sir, the Financial Secretary's budget is a fairly satisfactory one from my point of view although it is not sufficiently progressive in certain directions. I shall try to illustrate what I mean by making certain references. I propose first to deal with education. In the matter of education what we find is that Government have been paying particular attention and had appointed a committee which has sent up a report. We are however labouring under a disability because that report is not published. It has been received late by Government and perhaps the Government did not find time to pass its orders. We should have liked very much that the recommendations have been published so that we could have expressed our opinions also before the Government passed final orders on the recommendations of the committee. Going through the Financial Secretary's speech, I do not come across any provision which indicates that any departure is intended or that any considerable additional allotment is made for any new reforms to be carried out. Perhaps the Government may after passing final orders ask us for further supplementary grants. What I wish to impress upon this House is that, education being a very important matter and as we are already spending one-sixth of our total revenues on education, we should not grudge to pay some thing more to make the recommendations of the committee fruitful. I would suggest in this connection that a mild measure of compulsory education might be tried in selected areas. I do not know whether the committee makes that recommendation. Whether they do or not, that the measure is very necessary will be seen from the figures of illiterates in Travancore in every stratum of society. The Census Commissioner has given the figures of literates. I have by the method of elimination found out the figures of illiterates. Notwithstanding 116 years of State managed education supplemented by private enterprise we have still among Nairs 54·7 percentage of illiteracy. Among Ezhavas 72·7, among Vanians 80·7,—the list is rather long,—among Parayas 95·7, Pulayas 95·1, Pallan 97·6, and Vedan 99·1. As there is such a high percentage of illiteracy among all classes notwithstanding the long period of educational enterprise, Government should not hesitate to introduce a small measure of compulsory education, particularly because in the early part of this enterprise many of the classes known as backward and depressed had no facilities for education. They were denied admissions to schools, and if we merely throw open schools now, they may not have sufficient taste to go in for education voluntarily. Therefore a little involuntary experiment can be made in the direction of compelling them to go in for education and that is only fit and proper in the circumstances of the case. There is one other important reason to adopt a measure of compulsion. We are spending about 26 lakhs of rupees on elementary education or vernacular education in this land. Of these 26 lakhs of rupees, perhaps more than half or rather about half, is being wasted because our pupils who go in for education in the lowest class do not work up to the 5th class. According to the Census Commissioner the 5th class will be the proper standard up to which a person has to be educated so that he may not afterwards lapse into illiteracy. Now, among the boys that go in for

education more than 50 per cent. fall off before they reach the 5th class. That means, what we are spending on their education is being wasted. Of the 26 lakhs of rupees we are spending, I take it that about 12 lakhs are being wasted annually. Why should we not introduce a little measure of compulsion so that we may conserve the whole 26 lakhs of rupees that we are spending for the benefit of the people? That is one reason. There is yet another. We are now making political experiments in the shape of constitutional reforms. This is one reform that we are enjoying now and perhaps later on there may come another reform when we shall have a broader franchise. It may not be the tax-payer or educated man that may be called upon to vote. Perhaps all adults or persons paying a nominal tax may be getting the franchise. What will be the result if the reform comes to-day? Most of the people are illiterate even among the highest classes or communities known as progressive. They will not be fit to exercise the franchise. Perhaps it may be said that illiteracy does not matter and a man who knows to manage his own affairs will be competent to vote. Perhaps so. But if a man is literate there is great advantage and therefore I would plead for compulsory education for keeping pace with the growing political development and also to save the money that we are wasting in the shape of elementary education in the case of children who leave school and lapse into illiteracy. I concede that this is a costly experiment. And in these hard times, my friends will ask me "why do you propose a costly measure?" What I would answer is that the money can be easily raised by a small educational cess which the Retrenchment Committee itself recommended—a committee consisting of 4 responsible officers of the State and 3 non-officials—trusted gentlemen—who went into the question thoroughly and made very valuable suggestions. Government have recognised the suggestion as "very valuable" although they have not been carrying out all the suggestions as they were put forward, for instance, the suggestion for the cut with regard to the salaries of officers and certain other things. But this recommendation, the recommendation for the cess which they made, forms a direct source of income if given effect to and in another direction some saving could be effected by abolishing overlapping schools. That is also a recommendation made by the Retrenchment Committee and Government simply says that it is "under consideration." It is six months since the Retrenchment Committee made its final report and it was high time for an educational statistician to be asked to tour the country to make effective recommendations with regard to the schools that are superfluous as distinguished from those that are necessary. My suggestion in this particular is this. The whole of the State may be divided into educational units like *pakuthies* keeping in conformity with the revenue sub-divisions if possible, and to provide each *pakuthy* with one or more schools according to necessity. There must be at least one school in one *pakuthy*. There are now, according to the Report of the Education Department, 8 *pakuthies* in the whole of Travancore where there are no schools. That means we have already, speaking generally, the equipment necessary for a measure of

[Mr. M. Govindan.]

compulsion. There are only 8 *pakuthies* without schools and that was so for a number of years and nothing was done to establish schools in these 8 *pakuthies*. There may be other *pakuthies* where there is a number of schools, some of them not necessary. They may be abolished and retrenchment effected in that direction.

I notice, Sir, that there is one thing in the Financial Secretary's statement which is a source of great gratification while considering this matter. He has provided one lakh of rupees for the construction of school buildings. Now this one lakh of rupees is a fair provision in these hard days. A large number of schools have collapsed during the recent monsoons and it is necessary to rebuild them so as to house the boys and girls safely. And, for that, my suggestion is that a programme of school construction extending over a number of years may be systematically adopted so that we may have decent school buildings not very palatial but containing sufficient accommodation for housing children. So much with regard to education.

Then in respect of depressed classes. The Protector of Depressed Classes is an appointment that we have only recently made, and he is to be given an establishment also. And what is his work? He is provided with Rs. 7,000 for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. I ask, Sir, is this sufficient to engage his attention for one whole year? Rs. 7,000 can be spent in this work in the course of one month and he will have simply to sit quiet eleven clear months. The expenditure of Rs. 7,000, if it is provided in general terms for amelioration as such, could have been spread throughout the year. But it is specifically provided for "acquiring land for housing the depressed." This will not take more than one month. My own impression is that if we want a department for the depressed we should be earnest about it. The whole expenditure earmarked for the depressed communities comes only to Rs. 11,000 and odd. Now these Rs. 11,000 will work out at 3 pies per head of the depressed population. In the sister State of Cochin they have a similar department. They spend one lakh of rupees. Compared with our eleven thousand rupees it is a very considerable sum for that State. And that divided per head of the population of the depressed, will work out at one rupee per head. Look at that one rupee provision in Cochin and our 3 pies provision. Ours is a pittance. That shows we are not earnest about it. The depressed man's condition deserves careful consideration. The depressed classes are generally living in slums. Their mortality is very high and improvement of their lot requires the careful consideration of Government. My complaint is that sufficient attention is not paid in that direction.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Sir, we owe our existence to a new dispensation; to a growing desire of His Highness the Maha Raja to associate the people more and more in the task of Government. It was open to the Government to reconsider the decisions of the Legislative Council when there was only a single

Chamber. Part of this revisionary power has now been shared with the Council of State. As a second Chamber and as a revising authority our function is clear enough.

Hitherto this long view was exercised by the Royal Family and it is owing to the foresight of the Royal House of Travancore and its long line of Kings that Travancore is where it is amongst the Indian States. Now, Sir, our function therefore is to exercise foresight. Our criticisms may therefore be taken with sufficient respect. I beg to add by saying that at the present day the foremost thing that engages the attention of a true son of the soil is the economic depression of the country. As some of my worthy friends have rightly pointed out, it is to be regretted that the whole speech of the Financial Secretary has not made utterance even of a syllable as regards this depression except probably in the matter of pointing out that the decrease in the revenue was due to the economic depression. Sir, the slump in Travancore is a slump in agricultural produce and if we examine the various items of expenditure we can more or less see that they are directed towards unsuspected ways of living. If we can recognise the relation between this economic depression and the emergence of new ways of life we cannot fail to realise the impossibility of reconstituting our financial system. Except probably in the matter of flood and famine, agricultural economics does not play the important role as hitherto, for it does not form the main stay of our income. If we go round the country we will see that the lot of the poor agriculturists is very very hard. His pepper does not sell, his paddy does not sell, his tapioca, his ginger, none of these articles can find a market anywhere outside the State. There was for some time a tall talk about the appointment of a Trade Agent in London. But nothing has come out of it although some provision was made in the last year's budget. I understand that the provision of a Trade Agent in this year's budget is not for the appointment of a Trade Agent anywhere outside British India. Some remedy has to be sought and the lot of the agriculturist has to be mended. This fact has to be viewed with sympathy. Year after year the indebtedness of the agriculturist is increasing. He is running headlong into debts. The Land Mortgage Bank was expected to give some sort of relief to these poor ryots. But as the rules now stand, to ask for a loan means to incur additional expenditure and to go without the loan. The rules of the Land Mortgage Bank ought therefore to be modified in order to give real relief to the poor ryots for whom the Bank is mainly intended. Those of us who have read the speech of the Financial Secretary year after year for the past few years cannot fail to recognise that the old items of revenue are silting up and new items are springing up. Similarly the old items of expenditure are shrinking and new items of expenditure are being made more and more prominent on new ways of life. This is certainly an index to show that it is not possible to adjust the income to our expenditure. Our revenues from Excise, Forest, Registration and other items are year after year falling down. Still it is a sad truth, Sir, that the most important item of revenue of the State at present is the revenue from Excise. It is an immoral

[Mr. Kattiyattu Sivarama Panickar.]

source of income and it cannot be counted as stable. It is blood money that is wrung out of the veins of the people. Again Abkari and Opium under Excise form a large part of the revenue. The budget shows that there was as much as Rs. 25 lakhs under the head. It shows that drunkenness has risen to the extent of 5 times Rs. 25 lakhs. One of my friends of this Council asked a question if there was any possibility of finding out the amount of gallons consumed by the people from the rent that is derived by the Government. I have had expert advice on this matter and I was told that the amount consumed may be calculated as 5 times the rent derived by the State. If that is so it comes to a crore and twenty-five lakhs of rupees. And no wonder people resort so much to drinking because it is often considered as a sure relief to those who are hard pressed.

Income from Forest also is going down. It is, as stated in the report, due to the dullness of the market for timber. If that is so, the tariff rate for timber must be reduced and timber must be made more and more available for the use of the people in the country.

I am glad to state in this connection that the Industries Department has shown some slight improvement this year and it is a sure sign in the right direction. Often have I heard criticisms from the floor of this House against the existing system of education in that it does not provide for any occupation, that it does not provide bread and butter to those who come out of the schools and Colleges. The trend of the criticism was that there was no industrial education provided in the schools. It must be understood that even if industrial schools are started or industries introduced in schools we are only creating unemployed children who have learned some sort of industry. Instead of introducing industrial education in schools, the first thing that ought to engage the attention of this House and the Government is to industrialise the country to provide work for our young men coming out of our Industrial Schools. If that is done it will find ample work for our educated unemployed. There are raw products which may be utilised for some sort of industry which will provide food to a large many of the people in the country.

One peculiarity in Travancore is its relation with British India. Often we are taxed not because of the needs of Travancore but because of the needs of the Government of British India. For years we had the unsuspected wind fall from the salt tax of the Government of India. Now the petrol tax is a case in point. The motor traffic industry is a very thriving industry which gives work to so many thousands of young men in this country. All articles connected with this industry are being heavily taxed by the Government of India. Still in spite of this heavy taxation, instead of throttling this industry, it has been able to pour hundreds of rupees into the lap of the British Government. Our Government also has been reaping a golden harvest. It is therefore absolutely necessary to encourage this industry. The

Government of British India has made some sort of restitution by starting a Road Development Fund. We too have followed suit and it is well enough. But I understand that in British India there is a move to abolish the vexatious tolls. Although resolutions were passed by the legislature here to stop the tolls altogether, they have not been given effect to."

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon cum Karunagapalli*): എങ്ങിനെയാകിലും മിച്ചംകാണിക്കുന്നത് അനുമാദനീയമാണെങ്കിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ഈ സഭയുടെ അനുമാദനത്തിന് അർഹത നേടാൻ. സൂഷി പരമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള യാതൊരു നയവും അതിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. വേണ്ടതിൽ കൂടുതലായി ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും കരം പിടിച്ചുപറിക്കുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു. രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനോ ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനോ ആവശ്യമുള്ള യാതൊരു സംഗതികൾക്കുംവേണ്ടി പണം ചിലവാക്കാതെ ഇപ്രകാരം പിടിച്ചുപറിക്കുന്ന പണത്തെ മിച്ചംവയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. കരംകൊടുത്ത് കൃഷിക്കാരന്റെ നെട്ടുല്പാദനം ഒടിയുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മുതലെടുപ്പ് രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനാണോ ഇന്ന് ചിലവാക്കുന്നതെന്ന് ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാഗമമാഗ്നങ്ങൾക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ? തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ റോളിന്റെ ശരാശരിവരവ് രണ്ടു മാത്രമാണ്. മിച്ചം വെച്ച് ആണ്ടുതോറും ഇരിപ്പുമുതൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുവന്ന രാജ്യതന്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരുടെ കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ശരിയായി ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി പണം ചിലവാക്കാതെ മിച്ചംവയ്ക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തെ ധനശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ ൪൦ ശതമാനത്തോളം വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിലേക്കായി ചിലവാക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതിലധികംഭാഗവും വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ തടിച്ച ശമ്പളത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ചിലവാക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി വളരെ പരിതാപകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. താഴ്ന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശമ്പളം മതിയാകാതെ പട്ടിണികിടക്കുന്നു. വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഒന്നാംതരത്തിലുള്ള തടിച്ച മാസപ്പടിയുംവാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു സുഖമായി കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നു. ഈ സഭയ്ക്ക് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിനെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊരു കാര്യവും പറയാൻ പാടില്ല. ഇന്ന് സംഗതിക്ക് ഇത്രപണം ചിലവാക്കണമെന്ന് ഈ സഭയ്ക്കു പറയാൻ അവകാശവുമില്ല. ഭരണകൂടത്തിലെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് കൊടുക്കുന്ന ശമ്പളം കൂടുതൽ ആണെന്ന് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുവെല്ലാം. ഈതരത്തിലുള്ള ശമ്പളത്തെ നിവർത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ചുരുക്കി ഭരണയന്ത്ര

[Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai.]

ഞെ ഓടിക്കാമൊ എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രമിച്ചുനോക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ചിലപ്പോൾ ചുരുക്കുക എന്നപദം ഈ സഭയുടെ എതിർവശത്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്റ്റേറ്റ്മിന്റാക്കു രൂപീകരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നല്ല. അതിനെതിരായി കാർഷികമത എന്നൊരു വിശുദ്ധതയും അവർക്കുണ്ട്. തത്താപം നോക്കിയാൽ അതു ശ്രമിച്ചുവരുമായിട്ടുതന്നെ തോന്നും. മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ ഒരു പ്രധാനഭാഗം ഇങ്ങിനെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിനായി ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു് ശരിയാണോ എന്ന് പാശ്ചാത്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേയും പരിഷ്കൃതങ്ങളായ മറ്റു നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേയും സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെ നോക്കി പഠിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഇംഗ്ലണ്ട്, അമേരിക്ക, കാനഡ, ജപ്പാൻ മുതലായരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പും അവിടത്തെ പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുടെയോ പ്രസിഡൻറിന്റെയോ ശമ്പളവും തമ്മിൽ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തിനോക്കിയാൽ ഈ സംഗതി എളുപ്പത്തിൽ ഗ്രഹിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. പൊതുവെ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥവൃന്ദത്തിന്റെസ്ഥിതി കുറച്ചുകൂടി നന്നാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ആവശ്യത്തിലധികമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ നിർത്തൽ ചെയ്യണം. കൃഷിക്കാർ പ്രണയംകൊണ്ട് വിഷമിക്കുന്നു. ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങൾക്ക് സീമ തീതമായി വിലക്കുറവു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് കണ്ടെടുത്തു നടത്തുന്നതിന് ആലോചിക്കുന്നത് തീരെ ഉചിതമായിട്ടില്ല. സെററിൽമെൻറ് മാന്യവൽ എഴുതുന്നതിനായി ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു ആഫീസരെ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു ഇപ്രകാരം നിയമിച്ചതു ഇവിടത്തെ നിയമസഭയോടു ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. പുതിയ സെററിൽമെൻറുപ്രകാരം മലബാറിൽ കരം കൂട്ടിയ അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പുതിയകരം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു നിർവാഹമില്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല പഴയകരത്തിൽതന്നെ ഒരു നല്ല ശതമാനം കുറച്ചുകിട്ടണമെന്നു സർ സ. ശങ്കരൻനായരുടെ അധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ യോഗംകൂടി നിശ്ചയങ്ങൾ പാസാക്കി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഇവിടെ സെററിൽമെൻറ് നടത്തണമെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു ഒരിക്കലും ശരിയല്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഭൂപ്രകൃതിയും കൃഷിരീതികളും ഈ രണ്ടു രാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ഒരു പോലെയാണിരിക്കുന്നത് അതിനാൽ തിരുവതാംകൂറിൽ കരം അൻപതുശതമാനം കുറയ്ക്കുകയും സെററിൽമെൻറ് അടുത്തകാലത്തേക്കു നടത്താതിരിക്കാൻ വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യയും വേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ വിഭവങ്ങളുടെ വില നാർക്കനാർക്കു കറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നു. മുൻകൊല്ലത്തേക്കാൾ ൧൧ ൦ ൦-ലെ കച്ചവടത്തിൽ ൨ ൦ ശതമാനത്തോളം കുറവു കാണുന്നു. കമ്മോഡിറ്റീസ് പ്രൈസ് ൩ ൦ ശതമാനം കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു എന്ന് കൽക്കട്ടാ ഇൻഡക്സ് നമ്പർ പറയുന്നു. മദ്രാസ്സിലെ എക്കണാമിക് പ്രഫസർ സി. ജെ. താമസ്സ് അത് ൪ ൦ ശതമാനം കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇത് ഇവിടത്തെ എക്കണാമിക് ഡെവലപ്പ്മെന്റ് കമ്മിറ്റിയും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്രകാരം കമ്മോഡിറ്റീ പ്രൈസ് കുറയുമ്പോൾ ടാക്സിം കപ്പാസിറ്റി ഇനങ്ങളിൽ എത്രമാത്രം കുറയുമെന്നു ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കർഷകന്മാരായ ഉൾനാട്ടുകാരുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വളരെ മോശമായിട്ടാണ് നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നത്. അവർക്ക് വിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾ വേണമെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾ പള്ളിക്കൂടം തീർത്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്നുപുറമെ പള്ളിക്കൂടത്തിനാവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലവും വിദ്യാലയത്തിന് വേണ്ട ഉപകരണങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാക്കി ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഏല്പിക്കണം. റോഡു വേണമെന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ റോഡിനാവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്നുപുറമെ റോഡുവെട്ടിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഏല്പിക്കുകയും വേണം. കൃഷിയുടെ ആവശ്യാനുസരിച്ച് ഒരു തോട്ടവേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലം പൊന്നുംവിലകൂടാതെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം. ഈ നയമാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും തുടർവരുന്നതെങ്കിൽ എന്തിനാണ് ഈ നികുതി പിരിച്ച് മിച്ചം വയ്ക്കുന്നത് എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ഇന്നു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന നികുതിയിൽ ഭൂരിഭാഗവും കൃഷിക്കാരിൽനിന്നുമാണ് കിട്ടുന്നത് എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കടലോരങ്ങളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്ക് ശുദ്ധജലം കിട്ടുന്നതിനു വളരെ പ്രയാസമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

അടുത്തതായി എനിക്കു ദേവസ്വങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് പ്രസ്താവിക്കാനുള്ളതു. മുന്തിലത്തെ പ്രാക്ടമേഷൻ അനുസരിച്ച് സഞ്ചായം ഉൾപ്പെടെ ൪ ൦ ശതമാനം ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്ക് കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അന്നേദിവസംതന്നെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള പ്രസ്കമ്യൂണിക്കിൽ ൧൬ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്ക് കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ പ്രസ്കമ്യൂണിക്ക് പ്രാക്ടമേഷനെ വ്യാഖ്യാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണ്. അതിനാൽ ആ തുക സെറ്റിൽമെന്റിനുശേഷവും കുറക്കാൻ പാടില്ല എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഇവിടത്തെ വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് ൧ ൦ വർഷക്കാലമായി ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. തൊഴിൽ ഇല്ലായ്മക്ക്

88 THE TRAVANCORE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL [18TH AUGUST 1933.]

[Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai.]

പരിഹാരവരുത്തേണ്ടതിന് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനാണ് കൂടുതൽ ചു
 മതലയുള്ളത്. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അനവധി വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരുണ്ട്.
 പൊതുജനതലിന്റെ ഒരു ഓഹരി ശമ്പളമായി പറുന്നത് ഇവർ ജനങ്ങളു
 ടെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന്
 ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ വ്യവസായം ഇന്നും ശൈശവാവസ്ഥ
 യിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. മാതൃകാതീതിയിലുള്ള വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ ഗവ
 റ്റുമെന്റിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ നടത്തി അവ ജനങ്ങളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാ
 യാൽ അത് ഇന്ന് തൊഴിൽ ഇല്ലാത്ത അനവധി ആളുകൾക്ക് തൊ
 ഴിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്.
 മൈസൂരിൽ ഭദ്രാവതിഅയൻവർക്ക്സിൽ ഇരിമ്പുവ്യവസായവും കോ
 ഴിക്കോട്ട് സോപ്പുവ്യവസായവും നടത്തിവരുന്നു. ഇതു രണ്ടും ഗവണ്മെ
 ന്റിൽനിന്നുമാണ് നടത്തിവരുന്നത്. ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്
 കള്ളുവ്യവസായം ഒഴിച്ചു പറയത്തക്ക മറ്റു വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ ഒന്നുത
 ന്നെ ഇല്ല. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു വ്യവസായം നടത്തണമെന്നുപറഞ്ഞാൽ
 അതിനു പണമില്ലെന്നുപറയും. ഇവിടെ പലവിധത്തിലുമുള്ള അസം
 സ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് പല വ്യവസായപദ്ധ
 തികളും ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും തുടങ്ങുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടുവോളം സൗക
 ര്യമുണ്ട്. അതിനു ഗവണ്മെന്റ് മുന്നിട്ടുനിന്നു ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രോത്സാ
 ഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഈ രാജ്യം വ്യവസായവിഷയത്തിൽ അഭിവൃദ്ധി
 പെടുവരുന്നതാണ്. തീപ്പെട്ടി, സോപ്പു മുതലായ സാമാനങ്ങൾ ഉ
 ണ്ടാക്കാം. റബ്ബർകൊണ്ടു പല സാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കാം. കടലാസ്
 ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടുവോളം പരപ്പ് ഇവിടത്തെ ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും
 കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ആഫ് ഇൻഡ്ത്വ സെക്ടറിറ്റിയിൽ
 തുച്ഛമായ പലിശക്ക് നിക്ഷേപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണം കൃഷി, വ്യവസായം
 എന്നീ സംഗതികൾക്ക് വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നതു ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്കവും ലാഭകര
 വുമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വ്യവസായത്തിൽ
 ഉത്സാഹം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെവരുത്തി അവരെ പഠിപ്പി
 ക്കുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കും. മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ അ
 ങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തുവന്നിരുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂർക്കാക്ക് ഓരോ പ്രത്യേക
 തൊഴിലിലും അഭിരുചി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനായി മുൻകാലത്ത് കച്ചവടക്കാ
 രെ വരുത്തി തുറമുഖങ്ങളിൽ താമസിപ്പിക്കുക, നെയ്തുതുകാരെവരുത്തി
 നെയ്തുപഠിപ്പിക്കുക മുതലായി പലതും ചെയ്തുവന്നിരുന്നു.

ഫാസർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്ക് വാർഡൻ ആഫ് ഗെയിംസ് എന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗം സൃഷ്ടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് തീരെ അനാവശ്യമാണ്. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പ് P. W. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്ക് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകയുടെ ശതമാനം അനുസരിച്ചാണ് അതിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ വരവു വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തും P. W. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന് പണം അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യങ്ങളുടെകാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് മൗനം അവലംബിക്കുന്നത് തീരെ നല്ലതല്ല. ഉറുനാട്ടിലെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കു സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും നല്ല തുക ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

എക്സൈസിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടെ പലസ്റ്റേഫിതന്മാരും സംസാരിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കസ്റ്റംസ്, ഉപ്പ്, പുകയില അബ്കാരി എന്നീനാല്പ് ഇനങ്ങളെ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അബ്കാരിയെപ്പറ്റി മാത്രമേ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ട് കസ്റ്റംസ് മുതലായ മറ്റു തുറകൾ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻക്വയറികമ്മിറ്റി, എക്കണാമിക് ഡിപ്രഷൻ എൻക്വയറികമ്മിറ്റി, ആലപ്പുഴയുള്ള ചേമ്പർ അഫ്കാമേർസ് എന്നീ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി അഭിപ്രായം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. എക്സൈസും കസ്റ്റംസും കൂടിതെമിച്ചു ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ലോകത്തിൽ വേറെ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തും ഉണ്ടെന്നുതോന്നുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറോടുള്ള വ്യക്തിപരമായ എന്തെങ്കിലും വിദ്വേഷംകൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ സംഗതികൾ പറയുന്നതെന്ന് തെറ്ററിദ്ധരിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രണ്ടു തുറകളേയും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകമായി തിരിച്ചു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മീഷണറുടെ കീഴിലൊ വേറെ എന്തെങ്കിലും കമ്മീഷണറുടെ കീഴിലൊ വയ്ക്കുന്നത് കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ ഡ്രെസ്സാറിസ്റ്റിക്സ് വളരെ മോശമായിട്ടാണ് തയ്യാറാക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഏറ്റവും താഴ്ന്നതരത്തിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണ് അത് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നത്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻക്വയറികമ്മിറ്റിയും എക്കണാമിക് ഡിപ്രഷൻ എൻക്വയറികമ്മിറ്റിയും റെഗുലേഷൻ കൗൺസിൽ നിന്നായിരുന്നതായ ഡേവിഡ് സൺ കമ്മിറ്റിയും അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

[Mr. A. N. Visavanatha Pillai.]

ഇനി കസ്റ്റംസ് റഗുലേഷനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത്. റഗുലേഷൻ ആവശ്യമുള്ള റൂറൽ ഇല്ലം ൧൦ ന്റെ അനവധി പണം ചിലവു ചെയ്ത ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറെ കൊച്ചി; പാണ്ടിച്ചേരി, മദ്രാസ് മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അയക്കയും അദ്ദേഹം കുറെ റൂറൽ എഴുതിയുണ്ടാക്കി ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഏല്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ൧൨ കൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇതുവരെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ൧൦ ന്റെ എഴുതിയുണ്ടാക്കിയ റൂറൽ അന്നത്തേക്കു അനുയോജ്യമായിരുന്നിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും ഇന്നത്തെ കാലസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കു യോജിച്ചതാണോ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ എനിക്കു സംശയമുണ്ട്.

കയറുമതിചരക്കിനു ഇവിടെയുള്ളതുപോലെ തീരുവ മറ്റൊരു സ്ഥലത്തും കാണുന്നില്ല. നെൽകൃഷികൊണ്ട് ൪൦ ശതമാനം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആഹാരം കിട്ടിവരുന്നു. ബാക്കിയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആഹാരവും മറ്റാവശ്യങ്ങളും നടത്തേണ്ടത് പ്രധാനമായിത്തെക്കു കൊണ്ടാണ്. തെങ്ങിനു വൃക്ഷക്കരം കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൂടാതെ തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ഓരോസാധനങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം നികുതി, ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നു. തേങ്ങ, കൊപ്ര, എണ്ണ, പൂണ്ണക്ക, തൊണ്ട, ചകിരി; കയർ എന്നീ സാധനങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രത്യേകം തീരുവ ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം ഒരു വൃക്ഷത്തിൽ നിന്നും കരം ഈടാക്കിയതിനു ശേഷം അതിൽനിന്നുമുള്ള ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രത്യേകം തീരുവ വാങ്ങുന്നത് ഇരട്ടിനികുതിയാണ്. ഇതേറ്റവും ആക്ഷേപാർഹമാണ്. ഒരു കുടിൽ വ്യവസായമായ കയറിന് തീരുവചുമത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. തന്നിമിത്തം ആ വ്യവസായം പാടെ നശിച്ചു. നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വ്യവസായങ്ങളെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, ഉള്ളവയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ ഇപ്രകാരം തടയുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഈ തീരുവ കയറിനു വയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലായിരുന്നു.

സിലോൺകാർ അവരുടെ കൊപ്രക്കും വെളിച്ചെണ്ണക്കും പ്രചാരമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ഇൻഡ്യയിൽവന്നു പല പ്രകാരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രചരണവേലകളും നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. സിലോണിലെ ടിയിഡുമെമ്പർ പെരിയസുന്ദരം ഇൻഡ്യയിൽവന്നു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനേയും ജനപ്രമാണികളേയും കണ്ടു സിലോൺ കൊപ്രക്കും വെളിച്ചെണ്ണക്കും മറ്റു സാധനങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രിഫറൻസ് കൊടുക്കണം എന്നും പകരമായി ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ കാട്ടൺഗുഡ്സിനു സിലോ

ണിൽ പ്രിഫറൻസ് കൊടുത്തുകൊള്ളാം എന്നും മറ്റും പറഞ്ഞു അവരെ സഹായിക്കപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിച്ചുവരുന്നു. നാം ഇവിടെ കണ്ണുമടച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സന്ദർഭമല്ല ഇത്. നമ്മുടെ കയറുമതിയിൽ വരുന്ന ശതമാനവും ചിലവാകുന്നത് ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്രയിലാണ്. അതിനാൽ നമുക്ക് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്രൻമാർക്കു് ഉപേക്ഷിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. സമർത്ഥനായ ഒരുദ്രോഹസ്ഥനെയോ മറ്റൊരതെങ്കിലും ഒരാളെയോ ഇതിലേയ്ക്ക് പ്രത്യേകം ഡപ്യൂട്ട് ചെയ്ത് ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്രയിൽ പോയി നമ്മുടെ സാധനങ്ങൾ ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിന് നാമു നല്ലവണ്ണം പരിശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANICKAR (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I am sorry I am obliged to tread the path that has been followed in reviewing the position of Government and in considering matters already discussed in the Assembly.

In reviewing the budget for the coming year, I wish to congratulate the Financial Secretary in having produced a well balanced budget, a budget disclosing the strong financial position of the Government. But I think nobody will go away with the idea that the budget represents the true financial index of the people of the country. It does not at all reveal the correct financial position of the people. The budget, as far as I can see, takes it for granted that the present depression is an old story not worthy of serious notice. There is one painful fact connected with this growing financial depression; that is, the large number of sales of private land for arrears of land revenue. This is not a matter which the ryots can look at with any peace of mind. The cry, therefore, has naturally been, on every lip, to reduce a substantial percentage of land tax. I cannot say that Government have been unsympathetic to the ryots. But the concessions that have been so far granted to the ryots do not go far enough to be of substantial help to them. To take one instance, the Kandukrishi ryots have been paying a very vexatious tax for many years. They have been agitating for an alteration, for a change, of payment in kind into payment in money. But, the concession kindly granted to the ryots in this direction has turned out to be only like pouring oil over troubled waters. At the time of commutation the rate was fixed in accordance with the market rate; but, those who could not pay in time were made to pay double the tax in addition to the ordinary penalties. At present, this excessive penalty is hanging like the sword of Democles over the heads of the Kandukrishi ryots who, at present, form over three thousand families in the State.

It is true that Government have made provision for advancing money to agriculturists. Unfortunately, most of the ryots are not in a position to avail themselves of these loans. Their lands are already encumbered, encumbered to the hilt, to the money lenders or to the Government. And every time they bring out the products of their hard labour to the markets for sale, they find that the prices have gone down further. In

[Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai.]

these circumstances they are not able to repay the loans they have already borrowed; they find it extremely difficult even to pay interest. The indebtedness of the ryots in Travancore is becoming more and more serious so that I fear that in the near future many square miles of lands will fall into the hands of Government. Government have the prospect of becoming landed proprietors sooner or later. The people in the country are so poor that even in public auction sales for arrears of revenue, there are no bidders and Government are compelled, in many instances, to take the lands for themselves. There are some kinds of lands, like *kuyal* lands and Kandukrishi lands which do not yield sufficiently to enable the ryots to pay the full dues to Government. At least in the case of such lands, the burden on the agriculturists should be lightened as much as possible.

My friend Mr. Narayana Menon suggested that it was possible to get crude oil, which is necessary for pumping out water from punja lands in Kuttanad, at a much cheaper rate than the rate at which they now get it and that the Cochin Government are procuring crude oil at thirty rupees per ton. Ordinarily the ryot has to pay about Rs. 80 per ton. I do not know if the information given by Mr. Narayana Menon is quite correct or not. But I am also reliably informed that it is possible to get crude oil at forty or fifty rupees per ton. If Government can do anything in the matter, that will be one method of lightening the burden of the ryots.

In this connection I wish to congratulate Government on the Hydro-Electric Scheme of Pallivasal which, we hope, will be of great benefit to the agricultural and industrial undertakings in the country. It will also relieve unemployment to a very great extent.

A large part of our revenue is consumed by the Public Works and the Education Departments. For the year 1109 the Education Department is expected to consume about forty seven and a half lakhs of rupees, that is to say about a lakh and a half more than in 1108. It is distressing to find that the present system of education is creating more and more educated unemployed and it is high time that we divert our attention to industrial and technical education.

The Public Works Department, including the electric scheme for Pallivasal, is to consume about forty nine lakhs of rupees in the year 1109. I hope that Government will formulate a programme of work calculated to employ more and more Travancore labour.

In regard to the Medical Department, I see the proposal for the co-ordination or combination of the Public Health, Sanitary and Medical Departments. These departments are all calculated to benefit the health of the people; and the proposal to put all of them under one Darbar Physician, so that all the three departments can co-ordinate their work, is, I think, likely to be of greater benefit to the people than mere individual effort.

I have already pointed out that the budget has not touched the depression prevailing in the country. Added to this we had unusual

floods this year. Sir, the floods have been the enemy of the people of Kuttanad for the last nine years. In varying degrees of devastation and ruin, the people of Kuttanad have had to find themselves in the floods of these nine years. No relief work has been started this year for the floods in central Travancore. It is usual for the people in central Travancore to lose their Kanni crop every year on account of the floods. Government have not so far come to the rescue of these ryots of central Travancore. And this year we had visitations of floods three or four times, and every time the floods remaining longer than usual. I would appeal to Government to appoint an expert to enquire into the causes of this flood and to suggest remedial measures so that a large section of the people of Travancore may be relieved from distress. I may mention, in this connection, that the Public Works Department which has constructed roads in central Travancore with feverish haste has contributed not a little to the increase in floods in this part of the country. In the Karuvatta-Thottapalli road, for instance, the P. W. D. has not constructed sufficient number of bridges, culverts and water-ways, so that during the monsoon the whole region round there gets converted into a lake. There is no outlet for the water. The people of Kuttanad have been agitating for the deepening of the water-ways there and for the opening of new canals. Government started work in one or two canals and left them unfinished.

It is highly necessary also that Government should start work on some of these canals and complete them. This will be a flood relief work to these distressed people. It is also necessary that Government should give remission of tax to people whose crops have been destroyed on account of floods and grant them special loans to enable them to raise fresh crops.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : Sir, I wish to make a few observations in connection with the general discussion of the budget. Sir, in doing so, I can assure you that I will not be boring the House by repeating what has already been said by my previous speakers. The first point that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that according to the budget, the Financial Secretary is expecting a very big revenue under the head Customs. Of course, he is expecting something like Rs. 43,20,000. I am not in a position to say for how long he can expect it, because customs revenue, if our Government is to enter into the federation that has been proposed, will be included in federal revenues, and likewise the revenue on salt will also be considered as a federal revenue. As such, our State, if it is to enter the federation, I am afraid, may not have any opportunity to utilise the revenue on salt and customs etc., for the general expenditure that has to be incurred in connection with the administration of the State. The second point that I have to bring to the notice of the House is the cause of the depressed classes, not exactly the depressed classes, but the cause of the landless people in the State. According to the statement made by the Land Revenue Commissioner in the

[Mr. K. Padmanabha Panickar.]

last Sri Mulam Assembly I am led to think that there are only 12 lakhs of land-owners in the State. That is those who actually pay tax to the Government treasury number only 12 lakhs. The remaining 40 lakhs of people are there without any land and there is no provision made in the budget for the uplift or betterment of those classes of landless people.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : Does not the member know that these 12 lakhs of land-owners have got 12 lakhs of families also?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : I am not concerned with that. I am only concerned with those who are entirely landless. I am not going into the details of the families of land-owners. Here for the land-holders, the Government have budgeted several lakhs of rupees by way of agricultural loans, industrial loans and so many other loans, over and above the very big amounts that are annually spent by way of salary to the officers. I say, Sir, that there are lots of landless people here, and they number forty lakhs and it is not an insignificant figure. It is no wonder that this House or the Financial Secretary has not yet taken the trouble to consider their position. Of course, we, the representatives of the people, are mainly returned by the land-owners. The landless people have no voice in the matter of sending any representative to the House. I wish, in this connection, to bring to the notice of Government that the landless people also should be given an opportunity to send in their representatives to the two representative bodies, namely the Sri Mulam Assembly and the Sri Chitra State Council. If not, their cause will be left uncared for, both by the legislatures and by the representatives of the Government as well. Sir, in saying this, I do not mention any particular community. There are landless people among the so called high caste people and among the depressed classes. But when I speak of landless communities, I can more or less be sure that it is only among the depressed classes that there is the greater number of landless people. Of course they are considered to be untouchables and they are not allowed to approach many people and they are not at all looked after by the Government. I am not forgetful of the fact that the present Government has been very kind to appoint a Protector of the Depressed Classes, even though he has not been empowered to do anything substantial for the betterment of the depressed classes. The depressed classes here in Travancore are described in a speech by Sir Manubhai Mehta, the present Prime Minister of Bikaner, in a meeting held in Caxton Hall in Westminster, London, under the auspices of the East India Association on Friday, November 4th, 1932. This meeting was inaugurated by the East India Association and a paper was read by Mr. Coatsman on 'Reforms in India and the Depressed Classes.' At that meeting Sir Manubhai Mehta, who has taken a very great interest in the cause of the depressed classes, has said thus :

" You will all be interested to learn that Dr. Ambedkar, who really deserves credit for his yeoman service to his countrymen and to the depressed classes, was sent by Baroda for education abroad. I take a little pride because I selected him myself. I was Minister of Baroda at the time, and I sent Dr. Ambedkar to America."

In the course of the speech he makes mention of Travancore :

"These classes (referring to the depressed classes) are conscious of their own inferiority. In Madras, of course, it is the greatest evil. In Travancore they cannot come with assurance to the public road. If they come they have to cry out, 'I am coming,' in order to warn any Brahmin so that their shadow should not fall upon him. They have to carry certain vessels, as spittoons tied to their breast, so that they may not pollute the high road. All these indignities the high-caste Hindus ought to be ashamed of, but up to now we have never cared for the untouchables."

This is the idea that a high-caste Hindu who is also an Indian entertains about the depressed classes of Travancore. Then, so far as the opinion of a Missionary is concerned, that is, a Missionary who has done a lot of service in the cause of the depressed classes both in India and outside, what he says is this. He is none other than Commissioner Arthur Blowers.

"I have been a Salvation Army officer (he also made a speech in the very same meeting) for forty-six years, nearly forty of which I spent in India and have therefore some little knowledge of the people. I have lived in Northern India and know something of the depressed classes in the United Provinces and the Punjab, also in western India, i. e., the Deccan and in Gujarat. In the Madras Presidency I have been very closely associated with them and spent many years in north and south Travancore."

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know from the member whether he is reading from these speeches to establish that there are depressed classes in Travancore?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Of course it is left to the member to decide. I am simply giving out an instance of how other people view the condition of the depressed classes in Travancore. I have referred to the speeches made by an Indian and an European about the condition of the depressed classes here. It is left for the House and the member to decide, for themselves, whether it is true.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Is the member advocating the strengthening of a Publicity Bureau?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: No. Commissioner Blowers goes on to say like this:

"It is difficult for me to agree with Sir Manubhai Mehta that these people should not be referred to as depressed or even oppressed, for, as far as my observations go, I have seen a great deal of their suffering, which is the direct result of oppression, and very cruel oppression at that. Shall we then call them unprivileged, for certainly they have not the privileges that would seem to be the common right of humanity? I have known villages, especially in Travancore, low-caste villages, to be set on fire and burnt to the ground because of some feeling of ill-will towards the lower caste. I have seen men who have been thrashed to almost within an inch of their lives for apparently no reason whatever....."

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the member?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Please wait till I finish my sentence:

"and I have seen them handcuffed and dragged by the Police under false charges."

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does the member know personally any instance?

96 THE TRAVANCORE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL [18TH AUGUST 1933.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : I am afraid my friend was sleeping while I was talking.

Then Mr. Blowers goes on saying like this :

"I have never seen anybody treated worse than the Pulayas of Travancore by their fellow low-caste countrymen."

That is what a gentleman who has had thirty or forty years of service among the depressed classes says about the condition of the depressed classes in Travancore. It is simply to bring to the notice of the House and of the Government the impression that big politicians and social workers, like Sir Manubhai Mehta who had the good sense to send Dr. Ambedkar to America and other places, and Mr. Blowers have. I say it is a very shameful thing to have such a good number of people called the depressed class people here.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (*Temporary Secretary to Government in Political Matters*) May I know whether the member endorses their views?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : I am very glad that the Political Secretary was kind enough to ask me that question. He himself was present at one of the meetings held a month after in connection with that. Whether they actually entertained that idea or not the Political Secretary himself will be able to elucidate to the House.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the member endorses those views?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : I am not here either to corroborate or to dissent from their opinion. That is the impression created outside. If that impression is wrong, it is the duty of Government to inform the public outside to wipe off that impression. But if it is correct, it is the duty of Government to see that it is redressed. Of course, in this connection, I am not at all inclined to make any remark on or to speak anything ill of a particular community. But I simply wanted to make the House understand the impression about the depressed classes which gentlemen like Sir Munubhai Mehta and Commissioner Blowers entertain and how they were giving lectures outside about it in the presence of the representatives of the Round Table Conference. These representatives might have carried away with them the idea that the depressed classes in Travancore are worse than, I will not say what.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: What is the date on which these speeches were delivered?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : I have referred to that at the very beginning. The meeting of the Association was held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday, November 4, 1932.

Sir, this is the impression that the depressed classes here have created outside. It is a very shameful position. Especially when His Highness the Maha Raja, who has gone outside on a European tour, is asked such a question, I am sure, His Highness will be simply ashamed of that. I want the Government to seriously consider that point.

The next point I want to touch is Devaswom.

PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH (*Changanachery cum Peermede*): ബസ്സ് റിനെപ്പറി ഇവിടെ പലതും വിമർശനം ചെയ്യുകഴിഞ്ഞു. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ ഇവിടെ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളെ ആവർത്തിച്ചു പറയണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഓരോ തുറകളേയുംപറ്റി ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എനിക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സമയം പോരാതെ വരുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ചുരുക്കമായി ചില സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി പറയാം. ഇവിടെ പലതും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ പ്രധാനസംഗതി സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനമാണ്. അതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് ഏതെങ്കിലുംമെംബർ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന് സംശയമാണ്. സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനമെന്നു പറയുന്നത് സാധാരണമട്ടിൽ ഉള്ളതല്ല. ലോകംമെട്ടുക്ക് പൊതുവേയും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായും ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അത് ലോകം മുഴുവൻ ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാകയാൽ പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു പ്രയാസമാണെങ്കിലും പലതും പലതരത്തിലുള്ള പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ സാധനങ്ങൾക്ക് വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ വിലകിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണ് പ്രഥമമായി നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനത്തിന് ചില പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ അതിന്റെ ആരംഭകാലത്ത് അന്നത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അടുക്കൽ ഞാൻ നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അത് സാധ്യമല്ലെന്നാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് അന്ന് അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് വരവിൽ കുറവുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിന് സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനമാണ് കാരണമെന്നു ബസ്റ്ററിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറും സമ്മതിച്ച് പറയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതുകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു എന്തുമാത്രം കഷ്ടതകൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നോ അതിന് ഏതെങ്കിലും പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നോ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ബസ്റ്ററുകൊണ്ട് കാണുന്നില്ല. തുടരെ മൂന്നുനാലുകൊല്ലത്തെ കരംപിരിവിന്റെ കണക്ക് എടുക്കണം. അതുപോലെ കരം കൊടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് വസ്തുക്കൾ വിറ്റിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്ക്, സിവിൽക്കോർട്ടിൽ ഇൻസാർവെൻസി പെററിഷൻ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ കണക്ക്, മൂന്നുനാലുകൊല്ലംകൊണ്ട് എത്രമാത്രം വസ്തുക്കളെ വിറ്റിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്ക് എന്നീവിവരങ്ങൾ എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനംനിമിത്തം എത്രമാത്രംവിഷമമുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്ന് ബോധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ഇതുപറയുമ്പോൾ ഒരു കഥ ഓർമ്മയിൽ വരുന്നു. മീനച്ചൽ ആറ്റിൽകൂടെ ഒരു പിതാവും പുത്രനും ചരക്കുകൊണ്ട് പോയിരുന്നു. അവരുടെ സഞ്ചാരത്തിന് ഒഴു

[Mr. C. M. Joseph]

ക്ക് പ്രതികൂലം ആയിരുന്നു. ഇതുകണ്ട് നാം ഏതുദിക്കിലേക്കു പോയാലും ഒഴുക്ക് നമുക്കുനകൂലമായും ആറുമണൽ പലഹാരമായും വെള്ളം മദ്യമായും ഈ കാണുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങളെല്ലാം നമുക്കു സ്വന്തമായും ഇരുന്നെങ്കിൽ എത്ര നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് മകൻ പിതാവിനോടുപറഞ്ഞു. ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതായാൽ മകൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥിതി താമസിയാതെ വന്നുചേരുന്നതാണ്. ഇത് നിസ്സാരമായ ഒരു കാര്യമല്ല. കാർഷികസാധനങ്ങൾക്ക് വില വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ശ്രമിക്കണം. ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ഭൂമിയുടെ ഗുണം കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നു. ഏതെങ്കിലും സാധനം കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ നാം ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള വിളവ് അതിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. നമുക്കാവശ്യമുള്ളതെല്ലാം ബർമ്മാക്കാർ തരുന്നുണ്ട്. കൊപ്രയും വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയും സിലോൺകാരും തരുന്നു. ആസ്ട്രേലിയക്കാർ ഈയിടെ കുറെ നെല്ല് ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിലേക്ക് അയച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ബർമ്മാക്കാർക്ക് വലിയ വേദനതോന്നിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഇൻഡ്യയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് അവർക്കു ഭയപ്പെടാനില്ല. ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെന്റുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ കൃഷി ഇവിടെ മതിയാക്കുകയാണ് നല്ലത്. കൃഷി ചെയ്ത് ചെയ്ത് വസ്തുക്കൾ മുഴുവൻ പണയത്തിലായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ ഒന്നുകിൽ കൃഷിയെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങൾക്ക് വിലവർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കഴിയുന്നത്ര സഹായം ചെയ്യണം.

ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരീതിയെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ച് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടു സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അത് എങ്ങിനെ വരുമെന്ന് അറിയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ആ റിപ്പോർട്ട് പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിനായി വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കപ്പെടുമെന്ന് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇരിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരീതി നാട്ടിനെ വെറും പാപ്പരാക്കുന്നതിന് പര്യാപ്തമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല എന്ന് ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. പഴയകാലത്ത് തുച്ഛമായരീതിൽ ശരിയായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടത്തി പലരും യഥാർത്ഥപൗരന്മാരായി തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊണ്ട് യഥാർത്ഥപൗരന്മാർ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു പകരം വിപ്ലവബുദ്ധികളും അനസരണയില്ലാത്തവരും സംസ്കാരമില്ലാത്തവരും സൃഷ്ടിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊണ്ട് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ഡിപ്ലോമ, ഡിഗ്രി എന്നീ സ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ സമ്പാദിക്കുവാൻ മാത്രമായിരിക്കാം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മിറ്റി ഈ സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി നല്ലവണ്ണം ആലോചിച്ചിരിക്കുമെന്ന് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ ഇനി വലിയഭാരം

ജനങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു ചുമപ്പിക്കാതെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെയ്യത്തക്ക ഒരു പദ്ധതി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതു ഈ സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനത്തിന് ഒരു പരിഹാരമായും തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊണ്ട് തൊഴിൽ ഇല്ലായ്മ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥമാകുന്നതിനാകയാൽ ഉദ്യോഗവഴികളൊക്കെയും അത് സമുദായവഴക്കിനു കാരണമായിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗവഴക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നത് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുള്ള ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടൽകൊണ്ടാണ്. ഇന്നത്തെ കാലസ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അന്തസ്സ് പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിന് ഇതുവലിയശമ്പളം ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നു തോന്നിക്കുന്ന പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ട്. മുമ്പ് ഒരു ദിവസത്തിൽ ഏഴും എട്ടും മണിക്കൂർ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു അധ്യാപകനു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ശമ്പളത്തിന്റെ നാലിരട്ടിയോ അഞ്ചിരട്ടിയോ ഇന്ന് രണ്ടും മൂന്നും മണിക്കൂർമാത്രം പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അധ്യാപകന്മാർക്കു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ കാലസ്ഥിതിക്കനുസരിച്ചു പരിഷ്കരിക്കണം.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: കാളേജ് അധ്യാപകന്മാരെപ്പറ്റിയാണോ ഫെസ്കൂൾ അധ്യാപകന്മാരെപ്പറ്റിയാണോ മെമ്പർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നത്?

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: എല്ലാവരെയുംപറ്റി പൊതുവെയാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്. ഫെഡ് മാസ്ട്രന്മാർക്കു കടലാസു നോക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ജോലി അല്ലാതെ വേറൊന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല. അവർ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന ശമ്പളത്തിനു തക്ക ജോലി അവർ ചെയ്യുവെന്നില്ല.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: മെമ്പർക്ക് സ്കൂൾസംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി വല്ല പരിചയവും ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: ഞാൻ നല്ലവണ്ണം പരിചയപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ചെലവു കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഒരു പദ്ധതി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് താമസിക്കാതെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. അത് സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനത്തിന് ഒരു പരിഹാരമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മക്ക് മോട്ടാർവ്യവസായം ഒട്ടുവളരെ പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. മോട്ടാർവ്യവസായംകൊണ്ട് കുറെ ആളുകൾക്കു തൊഴിൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, ഈ മോട്ടാർവ്യവസായം വന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ ഇത്രമാത്രം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. മോട്ടാറിന്റെ ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്ക് ഇറക്കു

Mr. C. M. Joseph,]

മതിചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പെട്രോളിന്റെ കണക്ക് എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഈ സംഗതി എടുപ്പത്തിൽ മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതാണ്. പഴയകാലത്ത് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ സർവ്വീസ് പോകുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ സ്ഥലത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ ആ വിവരം മുൻകൂട്ടി അറിയുകയും അവരുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളേയും സങ്കടങ്ങളേയും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ അറിയിച്ചു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിവരികയും ചെയ്തപ്പോൾ. ഇന്ന് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ മോട്ടോർവാഹനങ്ങളിൽ സർവ്വീസ് ചെയ്യുന്നതുമൂലം അവരുടെ വരവിനെപ്പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിയുന്നതിനോ സങ്കടംപറയുന്നതിനോ സാധിക്കാതെ വരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് എന്നെ ഒരു അപരിഷ്കൃതനാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയും വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ക്ഷാമത്തെ വളർത്തിയെടുത്തു മോട്ടോർവ്യവസായമാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളോടുചേർത്ത് ഇപ്പോൾ കളിസ്ഥലങ്ങളാണ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിവരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഓരോ സ്കൂളിനോടും കുറെ കൃഷിസ്ഥലം കൂടിചേർത്ത് അവിടെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെക്കൊണ്ടു ചെറുതരത്തിലുള്ള കൃഷികൾ ചെയ്യിച്ച് അവർക്ക് പ്രോത്സാഹനം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ സ്കൂൾ വിട്ടു പുറത്തിറങ്ങുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അവർക്ക് കൃഷിയിൽ അഭിരുചി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് കൃഷിയിൽ വൈദഗ്ദ്ധ്യമാണ് ഉള്ളത്. സാധനങ്ങൾക്കു വിലയില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് കൃഷി അധഃപതിച്ചുപോയത് എന്നു പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. കളിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതുപോലെ കുറേക്കൂടി കൃഷിസ്ഥലവും ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൃഷിയിൽ അവരെ ഉത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

ഭൂമി ഇല്ലാതെയും പാക്കാൻ സ്ഥലമില്ലാതെയും അനവധി ആളുകൾ ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നു എന്റെ സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ശങ്കരൻ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിലേക്ക് എന്തെങ്കിലും പരിഹാരം ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. പള്ളിവാസൽ റോഡിനടുത്ത് മന്നാങ്കണ്ടം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിക്കുപയുക്തമായ ധാരാളം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ട്. അവയെ ലേലം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. ഭൂമി ഇല്ലാത്തവർക്കു കുറേക്കൂടി സ്ഥലം പരസ്പരസഹായ സാഹകാളിനികളായി കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നതിന് അവിടെനിന്നും പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (Nominated): Sir, the budget for 1109 is indeed a balanced budget and we need not be under any anxiety on the score of deficit though we are passing through one of the darkest periods of economic depression. We may therefore congratulate the Financial

Secretary on the optimistic view that he has taken in presenting to us, a balanced budget. It evidently shows careful husbanding of the resources of the State and that expenditure sustained during the past year has been carefully controlled, as well as the intention of doing so during the coming year. None of the development departments has been starved. But a reconnaissance over the figures of the last decade, the figures that we have been getting for the last 10 years, shows that the revenue and expenditure have been ascending by leaps. Since 1097, some of our friends remarked that the expenditure has gone up by leaps and bounds and we now stand at the figures 230 and 229 lakhs respectively. We also reserve about 19 lakhs as capital expenditure to be spent on capital works. Such being the case the people outside who are not in the know of real conditions of this country think that the State is progressing. But the country has been struck by the present economic blizzard and the poverty and indebtedness of the agricultural classes has been now brought forward before this House by almost every member and I think I need not tire the patience of this House by detailing the harrowing tales of woe over again. It is now in an abnormal condition. Abnormal conditions have always been met by abnormal remedies. We have been hearing prayer for a reduction of 25 per cent. of land tax of the country. I am not unaware of the concession Government have already shown and of their responsibilities and commitments, but viewing the present condition of this country, I think some substantial relief has to be given to our agriculturists. I am emboldened to make this suggestion as I have been lately reading that in the State of Bhavanagar an experiment was attempted by Sir Prabhaskar Pattani. Indebtedness of the ryots there to the Darbar extended to the tune of 64 lakhs of rupees. Though the State has not one-third of our resources, as soon as the Maharaja ascended the Musnad, His Highness was pleased to remit the 64 lakhs of rupees, the whole amount that was due from the ryots as land revenue. Such a bold policy, I submit, has also to be followed in the present abnormal conditions obtaining in Travancore to tide over the present crisis. From the Banking Enquiry Committee's Report and from our daily knowledge we know that the rural indebtedness of the people is very great. The committee then fixed it at about 25 lakhs of rupees, and in the present conditions, I and all of us believe that it may be taken to be double that amount or 50 lakhs of rural indebtedness. This works to rupees 100 per head of the population. Is it not possible to find some remedy to save the masses, to save the rural population from this catastrophe? As I said abnormal conditions have to be faced boldly. Here again I would like to go back to that State under Sir Pattani where though rural indebtedness was not so great as this, they made bold to evolve a scheme. There was an Agricultural Relief Act and as a complement to that Act they evolved a scheme by which the debts were to be settled as between the money-lending classes and the agriculturists on certain equitable principles. A committee consisting of Government officers representing Government and members from the money lending classes

[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

was formed. They were asked to try to settle the accounts on moderate basis of interest. As the indebtedness was so great it was found better for the bulk of the agriculturists and for the money lending classes to see that the principal and a modest interest are realised. The committee sat and on actual calculation it was found that the amount was reduced by two-thirds. An amount of three lakhs was reduced to one lakh, the Government guaranteeing the payment of the reduced amount in instalments. If such an experiment is made in this country I believe it will straight-away save the mass of the agriculturists from the tentacles of the usurers. Such a bold policy, I would submit, Sir, is worth attempting. I may not be heard if I say that in the different conditions of Travancore all at once, all the contractual obligations are to be set aside, but if that is not done now time will come soon when all the lands will be in one man's hand and that land will have no value. Our securities are getting valueless and our lands have no purchasers. Such being the case a bold attempt has to be made to keep the agriculturists on their lands and I press that before the House for consideration.

I may also bring to your notice, Sir, that of late, the perpetual preoccupation of the young Travancorean has been parochial, communal and State politics and on account of the wrong lead he obtained some misunderstanding about the State policy has been created in the minds of certain classes of persons. The mischief done by these roving politicians all over the country who exploit the simplicity of the masses has gone to work a great deal of mischief. Our recent legislation enhancing the powers of the legislature and its two Houses has also given an impetus to this sort of agitation. Certain communities, rightly or wrongly, believe that their share of representation in the legislature and in the centres and sources of power and influence has been seriously handicapped. They apprehend that those who secure this power will use it to the prejudice of their particular communities. Such being the case, I submit as urged before you by some of us at Kottayam that an attempt be made now to come to a generous understanding of their position and a committee be formed to examine their demands. The extension of franchise has been referred to by us then. That particularly may be considered and a small committee consisting of members nominated by Government may be appointed to examine the general question of extension of franchise and other allied matters, now that the storm and strife over this matter are subsiding.

I have to congratulate and thank Government on the Pallivasal Scheme. You remember, Sir, that soon after you took office as Dewan, in your tour to Kottayam in the Municipal address presented to you it has been pointed out that unless you tap the natural resources of the country stored in the perennial and primeval streams no industry or agriculture can be made paying both on account of the high rate

of interest obtaining here as well as on account of want of cheap power. Such being the case, if you start an industry without cheap power you will be nowhere in the competitive commercial world. But if the Pallivasal Scheme is completed it shall be a boon to north Travancore. We are thankful that in so short a period, the work has been begun. It requires very large capital. I may suggest that for such schemes requiring larger capital, Government may float a debenture rather than draw on the resources of the State and thus release the capital stored in the State Devaswoms, private deposits in the State and other banks. That will greatly give an impetus to the commercial activities in this country and also go to enhance the credit facilities of the country.

Local needs and the need for roads, dispensaries and canals, have been pressed in both the Houses of legislature. I think the maintenance of the existing roads itself will be a great drain upon our revenues and we may not be able to cope with the ever increasing demands. In other places we find that such local needs are not attended to by the Central Government but by local bodies such as Municipalities, District and Taluk Boards. It will be better if these needs are entrusted to the care of such local bodies here also. We passed a Panchayat Regulation so early as 1095 and the rules are also passed about 1103. These Panchayats may be organised soon and they may be asked to attend to the new needs of the locality and they may be helped by small grants. It would not be possible under the existing circumstances to finance these increasing needs. So, as stated by my friend, these Panchayats may be organised soon and public works may be placed in charge of a separate Engineer under the service of the State.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Sir, I beg to offer some remarks on the observations made by the members relating to the Excise Department. The most important point and the point stressed by several of the members is the fall in the price of Travancore copra and other produce of the cocoanut tree consequent on the coming of Ceylon copra into India. It is true that there has been an unprecedented and phenomenal fall in the price of copra and cocoanut oil. It is also true that Ceylon copra and cocoanut oil are being imported into India in very large quantities. The tremendous increase in the import of these commodities from Ceylon into India may be seen from the following figures. Two years ago, that is during the year ending 1st July 1930, Ceylon exported into India 50 tons of copra. That is, two years ago, the import of Ceylon copra into India in one year was only 50 tons. But in the year which ended with the 1st July 1933 the import of copra had risen from 50 tons to 18,589 tons. Similarly the import of oil rose from 5,907 tons to 23,950 tons in the year 1932-1933. That shows the rapidity with which the Ceylon producer is capturing Indian markets. It cannot be gainsaid that the great fall in the price of copra and cocoanut oil in the Indian markets is directly connected with the great increase in import from Ceylon. The question for consideration is whether it is in the power of the Travancore Government to do

[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

anything to restrict this and thereby keep up the price or whether we have omitted to do anything which we could have done to prevent this. In this connection what I would first bring to the notice of this House is that Travancore has no market of her own for her cocoanut produce. She is exporting every year large quantities of cocoanut, copra, cocoanut oil and other products. These products have to find markets in India outside Travancore. These markets are open not only to Travancore products but to products from outside including Ceylon. It is open to the Government of India to regulate the import to some extent. But they also cannot go beyond a certain limit. For instance it is not possible to prohibit altogether the import of copra and cocoanut produce into India by a very high tariff wall. They can go only up to reasonable limits. Whatever that may be, the price will depend upon the natural law of demand and supply. Whenever there is any demand for an article the price will depend upon its quantity available in the markets. That requires no further explanation. It is not possible for any Government to keep up the price of any commodity beyond a certain limit. So far as Travancore is concerned we are bound to adopt the British Indian rates of duty in the matter of imports. When the Government of India raises the duty we can also raise it to that extent. When they reduce we also will have to reduce it.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Conceding for the sake of argument that Travancore Government is in a position to prohibit the import of Ceylon copra into Travancore, may I know what would be the effect of the import of Ceylon copra into British India with reference to the imports available in British India?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It will be of no effect whatever because our price would depend—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: If the member is basing his arguments on the broad question of demand and supply, my question is, if Ceylon copra is prohibited from Travancore and it is allowed a free flow into British India, what would be the effect on the price of Ceylon copra in British India?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The answer to that is contained in what I have already said. My argument is that restrictions in the import into Travancore will have no effect. Our prices are regulated by the prices obtaining in Cochin, Bombay, Karachi and other markets. If the prices in these markets fall, our prices also will automatically fall. So the restrictions if any which the Travancore Government can impose will have no effect on imports into British India.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: സിലോണിലെ കെയിഡ് മെമ്പർ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ പ്രചരണവേല നടത്തുന്നു എന്നു അറിയാമോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: അറിയാം.

PRESIDENT : Allow Mr. Madhavan to finish his speech.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : As I said in reply to Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, even if Travancore is free to restrict her imports she cannot keep up the price. Our products will have to be sent to markets outside Travancore and the prices which they will get will depend upon the prices prevailing in those markets. So, we cannot do anything to keep up the prices by imposing any prohibitive tariff, even if we are free to do that.

The other question is whether we have omitted to do anything by which we could keep up the prices. So far as that is concerned, as I have already said, it rests with the Government of India to raise the import duty. The Travancore Government have been addressing the Government of India from time to time urging the cause of the Travancore producer and how the interests of Travancore are intimately connected with the cocoanut industry. That is all what the Travancore Government can do in that matter.

The fear was expressed by some members that by giving some facilities to the Travancore mill-owner, grievous injury has been done to the Travancore producer. I shall now attempt to show that whatever concession the Government granted to the mill-owner could not have materially affected the price of copra and cocoanut oil. In this connection, I may point out that the coming of Ceylon copra into Travancore as distinct from British India does not affect the price at all. When Ceylon copra was coming into India early in the year 1108, the price of copra in Travancore markets was above Rs. 70 per candy. Ceylon copra ceased to come by the end of October 1932. Thereafter the price was steadily falling and it has now reached the level of between Rs. 48 to Rs 50. That shows that the fall in the price of copra was steadily going on even when the Ceylon copra was not coming into Travancore. So, the coming of Ceylon copra cannot have very much to do with the prices in Travancore markets.

I shall now explain why that concession was granted to the mill-owner. It extends only to this. The cocoanut oil and punnac crushed out of Ceylon copra were permitted to be exported from Travancore without payment of any duty. Cocoanut oil and punnac crushed out of Travancore copra were on the other hand subject to an export duty. The oil and punnac crushed out of Ceylon copra were permitted to be exported free. Ceylon copra was imported into Travancore on the payment of a duty of Rs. 17-10 annas at that time. This concession was granted just to enable the Travancore mill-owner to make use of the Ceylon copra for working his mills. The Cochin mill-owners get Ceylon copra in Cochin for the very same price for which the Alleppey mill-owner gets it at Alleppey. According to the Customs Regulation as it now stands, the Travancore mill-owner has to pay an export duty of about Rs. 2-13-0 on the oil and punnac crushed out of one candy of Travancore copra. To export the oil and punnac crushed out of one candy of Ceylon copra, it will therefore cost the Travancore miller Rs. 2-As. 13 more than the Cochin miller. It is impossible for any

[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

Travancore mill-owner to compete in any outside market on these terms. It was to enable the Travancore mill-owner to make use of the Ceylon copra that these concessions were granted to him. It was granted purely as an experimental measure, till the end of 1108. That concession was not granted, for the first time last year. It had been granted once before in the year 1089. There was no demand, for the concession thereafter. The mill-owners took advantage of the low price of copra in Ceylon and prayed for the concession early last year. Government considered all the aspects of the question and then granted this concession as an experimental measure. It has now expired and the question is before the Government whether it should be extended any further. The feeling in the country as evinced by the speeches delivered both in this House as well as in the Legislative Assembly will receive due consideration. The feeling only shows how much the people of Travancore are interested in the cocoanut industry and how their prosperity will be affected by any great fall in the prices of these commodities. That feeling will receive due consideration before the Government grants any further concession.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: With reference to the statement made by the member that Ceylon copra was available at Cochin for the same price Travancore copra was available at Alleppey may I know what induced the Alleppey mill-owner to prefer Ceylon copra to that of Travancore copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There was no question of a preference. The Alleppey mill-owner could not keep his mill working with only the Travancore copra. He buys the Travancore copra as far as it is available.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കൊപ്രകൊണ്ടു് ഇവിടത്തെ മില്ലുകൾക്കു മതിയാകുകയില്ല എന്ന് മെമ്പർക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ? ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി മിൽ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ആവലാധിയെ മെമ്പർ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is the complaint of the mill-owners.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: ഇവിടത്തെ കൊപ്ര കൊണ്ടു് ഇവിടത്തെ മില്ലുകൾക്കു മതിയാകുകയില്ല എന്ന് മെമ്പർക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I accept the complaints of the mill-owners to be true. There is no reason why they should put forward a false plea.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: കൊപ്രയായിട്ടുതന്നെ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നും ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ കയറ്റുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലയോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : The whole of our copra is not crushed in our mills. Part is exported for very high prices which our mill-owners can never afford to pay.

MR. K. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*) : How is it possible to distinguish the oil from the Ceylon Copra which is exempted from export duty and the oil extracted from the Travancore copra ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : It is not possible.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : May I know how he was able to separate cocoanut oil crushed from the Ceylon copra and that from the Travancore copra ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : There is no necessity for distinguishing the one from the other. When copra is imported into Travancore certificate is granted to the importer showing the quantity of copra imported. The oil and punnac yielded by one candy of copra have been ascertained. The mill-owner is therefore granted at his request a certificate for the free export of oil and punnac crushed out of the copra imported by him. It does not matter whether the oil and punnac crushed out of Ceylon copra itself are exported or whether an equal quantity crushed out of Travancore copra is exported.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : Will the removal of the export duty concession increase the price of cocoanut in Travancore ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : It is very doubtful whether the refusal of the concession would tend to the rise of prices in Travancore.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റ്, സിലോൺ ഗവണ്മെന്റുമായുള്ള വരുമാനപങ്കിടൽ പ്രകാരം നടത്തേണ്ടത് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : പ്രചരണവേല നടത്താൻ വല്ലാത്ത യുദ്ധങ്ങളിൽ അതു ചെയ്യുന്നതു കൊള്ളാം.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കയറുമതിയിൽ വരും ശതമാനവും ചിലവாகുന്നത് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലല്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : കയറുമതി അധികവും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലേക്കാണ്.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : കാട്ടൺഗുഡ്സിനു സിലോൺകാർ പ്രിഫറൻസുകൊടുക്കാമെന്നു പറയുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു നമ്മുടെ സ്ഥിതിയും ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാരെ അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതല്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : മറയ്ക്കു അറിയിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. J. JOHN KATTAKAYAM : സിലോൺകൊപ്പയുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിത്തീരുവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു മെമ്പർമാർ പ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : വർദ്ധിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തി ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാമായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർമാത്രം വിചാരിച്ചാൽ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON : സിലോൺ കൊപ്രയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സൗജന്യം ഫ്രീ ഓൺ വരെയാണ്. ഇനിയും ആ സൗജന്യം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : ആ സംഗതി ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON : അതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് ഒരുതീർച്ച പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : രണ്ടു ചശത്തുമുള്ള ന്യായങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ആലോചിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം ഗൗണിക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഒന്നും ചെയ്യുകയില്ല.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON : അസംബ്ലിയിലേയും കൌൺസിലിലേയും വാദങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചു കേട്ടിട്ടും അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു ഖണ്ഡിതമായ ഒരു മറുപടി പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : That is a point in which orders are pending.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : Sir, a number of members stated that in my budget speech I have not made any reference to the economic depression and to the fall in the prices of commodities. I thought, as every other member of the House knew, that these two are world factors. Fall in prices is an international question. Travancore is only a very small State and it could not do anything to raise the level of prices of commodities. World's greatest financiers are engaged in solving this problem of universal economic depression. We have to wait till some satisfactory solution is found in other places.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI : Am I to understand from the member that there are no best brains in our country?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : I am only saying that Travancore being a small State, could not do anything substantial by itself. We have to move with the rest of India and the world.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : മറ്റുരാജ്യക്കാർ പ്രചരണവേല ചെയ്യുന്നതുപോലെ ഇവിടെ നിന്നും പ്രചരണ വേല ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ലെന്നാണോ മെമ്പർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നത്?

PRESIDENT : The members must kindly stand up when they ask questions.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: മറുരാജ്യക്കാർക്കുള്ളതുപോലെ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു യാതൊരു സാമാനത്തിലും മോണാപ്പളി ഇല്ല. കൊല്ലം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും സിലോണിലും മലബാറിലും മറുരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് കൊല്ലം മറുരാജ്യക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ വില നമ്മുടെ കൊല്ലം കിട്ടാൻ വഴിയില്ല. പ്രചരണവേല നടത്തിയാലും നമ്മുടെ കൊല്ലം കൂടുതൽ വിലകിട്ടുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : അതുകൊണ്ട് സിലോൺ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രചരണവേല അബദ്ധമെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നത്?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: സിലോൺ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ചെയ്യുന്നത് ശരിയായിരിക്കാം, എന്നാൽ സിലോൺ കൊല്ലം കിട്ടുന്നവല മാത്രമേ മൊത്തത്തിൽ ഇൻഡ്യൻ മാർക്കറ്റിൽ നമുക്കു കിട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: ഇവിടെ കൊല്ലം കൂടുതൽ വിലകിട്ടുകയില്ലേ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: ആ ഭാഗം ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു കഴിഞ്ഞു.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: സിലോൺ, മലബാർ എന്നീ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ കൊല്ലായിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന എണ്ണയും ഇവിടെത്തെ കൊല്ലായിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന എണ്ണയും വ്യത്യാസമില്ലേ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: അല്പസ്വല്പ വ്യത്യാസം കണ്ടേക്കാം.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇവിടെത്തെ എണ്ണയുടെ ഉത്ഭവം കൂടുതലാണെന്നു അറിയാമോ? ഇവയിൽ ഏതാണ് നല്ലത്?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: രണ്ടുതരം കൊല്ലായിൽ നിന്നും നല്ല വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട് എന്ന് അറിയാം. സിലോൺ കൊല്ലം എണ്ണ കുറവും തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൊല്ലം എണ്ണ കൂടുതലുമാണ്.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: എണ്ണയുടെ ക്വാളിറ്റി നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഏതാണ് നല്ലതായിട്ടുള്ളത്?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: എണ്ണയുടെ ഉപയോഗത്തെ അനുസരിച്ചു വേണം അതിന്റെ ക്വാളിറ്റി തീർച്ചയാക്കേണ്ടത്.

Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai referred to the assets and liabilities statement published on page 7 of the budget. He seems to have

[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

entertained some doubts about the accuracy of the figures. I can assure him that the figures are all correct. He also referred to the sum of Rs. 1 crore and 43 lakhs spent for the construction of the line from Shencotta to Quilon and said that it is not shown as a liability in our assets and liabilities statement. Of course, it is not a liability and hence it is not shown as such.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, is it a loan raised?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: It is a loan raised by the Secretary of State for India.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, may I know, is it a loan raised for us?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Not for us.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, is it a liability of the Travancore Government?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: No.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, may I know, why it is stated in the Administration Report that it is a capital liability for Travancore and the loan has been raised for Travancore in London?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I do not think you will find such a statement in my budget speech.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Am I to take it from the member that what is stated in the Administration Reports and budget speeches of the previous years cannot be counted?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The member may very well accept the latest statement on the subject.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: From that, am I to understand that statements made in the previous reports are incorrect?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Not exactly that. We have to be guided by the latest pronouncements on the subject.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, may I know, whether the statements made in the previous Administration Reports are incorrect ones and that the statements of the two previous years viz., 1106 and 1105 alone are correct ones?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The latest statements are correct.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: How does the member explain the statement which once appeared in the Administration Report, viz., that it is a loan raised in England for Travancore?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: It is not like that. If there is any such statement in the present reports, we may even withdraw

that statement. The statements in the Administration Reports referred to by the Member might have been based on the information then available. The Member might however take my present statements as correct.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI : അതിനെ തിരുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : തിരുത്തണമെന്നു ആവശ്യമില്ല.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON : സിങ്കിംഗ് ഫണ്ടിന്റെ ആവശ്യം എന്താണ്?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു കാലത്തു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് കൊല്ലം, ചെങ്കോട്ട ലയിൻവാങ്ങിക്കണമെന്നു തോന്നുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അന്ന് ലയിൻ വാങ്ങിക്കേണ്ടാവശ്യത്തിലേക്കാണ് സിങ്കിംഗ് ഫണ്ട് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നത്.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON : തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് പണം ആവശ്യമെന്ന് തോന്നുമ്പോൾ അവർ ലയിൻ തിരിയെത്തരുമെന്നാണോ വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടതു്?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : ഇന്നത്തെ റയിൽവേ കാൺട്രാക്ട് ഫൻഡ് - ൽ മാത്രമേ അവസാനിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. അന്ന് കൊല്ലം മുതൽ ചെങ്കോട്ടവരെയുള്ള റയിൽവേവാങ്ങിക്കണമെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് തോന്നുന്നു എങ്കിൽ അന്നും പണം കൊടുക്കാതെ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. ആ തുക കൊടുക്കുന്നവകയ്ക്കാണ് സിങ്കിംഗ് ഫണ്ട് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. റയിൽവേ വാങ്ങിച്ചുഎന്നും വരാം, വാങ്ങിച്ചില്ല എന്നും വരാം.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI : Am I to understand that the Government have not made up their mind to buy these railways?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : No.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI ; That is, only if and when they find it necessary?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : Government have the option to purchase the line after the existing contract.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : How is it that the Government made an incorrect statement in the Administration Report ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : In the last year's Administration Report, you will not find such a statement.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : May I know whether the member is aware of any such statement in the Administration Reports of previous years ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: If the member could refer me to that particular portion of the Administration Report, I could explain.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: That statement could be found in the Administration Reports of 1097 and 1098 and also of 1102. If the member could kindly peruse these books, the statement could be easily found.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I hope the member could read out to me the particular paragraph?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: If the member could please hand over the book to me, I shall find it out for him?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I have not got the books with me at present.

Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai made a reference about the Travancore Sugars. He stated that at present there is no market for the shares of the Travancore Sugars. It is hoped that within 2 years' time, the shares of the Travancore? Sugars could be sold at their face value.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Is the member prophesying?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Yes.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know, will that be correct throughout?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: It remains to be seen, being a prophecy.

The Travancore Sugars is working satisfactorily now. On account of the protective duty imposed by the Government of India, there will be a good demand for our sugar. Consequently it is quite likely that this concern will get a decent profit in course of time. In that case, the prices of shares are bound to go up.

Regarding the concession given to copra, a question was asked whether the Government could cancel the order recently passed on the subject. I may assure the members that Government are prepared to cancel the order as regards the non-levy of export duty on the oil and punnack extracted from Ceylon copra.

Then some reference was made about the re-classification of State Charities and Devaswoms. I have already referred to this in my budget speech and I do not wish to add anything more.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: But we are not aware of that. The proceedings have not yet been published either.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: That is in my budget speech and I think the book has been handed over to every one of the Council members.

Mr. Sivarama Panickar referred to the working of the Land Mortgage Bank. I was very anxious to hear from him on what lines he wants the rules to be modified. Unfortunately he did not suggest any

proposals in that direction. If Mr. Panickar would kindly think over the matter and write to Government, they will take the necessary action.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR ; Yes, Sir, I shall do so. •

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI ; In this connection I may be permitted to say one word about the working of the Land Mortgage Bank.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : May I know whether a circular was not recently issued by Government stating that the agricultural loans received by individuals will not be treated as a prior charge upon the property ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : There is this distinction made. When a person has already received an agricultural loan, the Land Mortgage Bank could not advance him any further loan on the same security.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI ; Does the member think that loans from the Land Mortgage Bank will be more advantageous to the agriculturists ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : Yes, I consider so.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : Then, in that case, will the member be pleased to state whether Government will modify that circular ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : If any real necessity for that arises, Government will think over the matter.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : May I know whether, if the terms of the loan from the Land Mortgage Bank are more advantageous to the agriculturist, he will not be allowed to go in for that although he may owe an agricultural loan to Government ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : In some cases it will be advantageous to the agriculturists to get loans from the Land Mortgage Bank. But since both are Government concerns, it is considered that it will not be fair to advance a fresh loan from the Land Mortgage Bank when the party has already had an agricultural loan from Government.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : What is the rate of interest charged by the Land Mortgage Bank ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI ; The Land Mortgage Bank charges 7 1/2 per cent. interest whereas, the rate of interest in the case of agricultural loans is only 6 per cent.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : What about the period of the loan ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : In some cases, the period will be longer in the case of loans from the Land Mortgage Bank.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : Is the member in a position to assure the House that the revenue under Salt will be a permanent source of revenue to the State?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : I believe the Salt Revenue will be a source of revenue to the State more or less permanent.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : May I know from the member the position of Salt Revenue in the Federation of India?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : The latest developments on the subject are yet to be known.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : Salt and Customs are to be considered as Federal subjects.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : In that case there may be some concession so far as the Travancore Government is concerned. Anyhow it is a subject in regard to which nobody can say anything definite at present.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : May I know whether the member is in a position to give us an idea of the position of Salt Revenue in case Travancore becomes part of the Federation?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI : I have already stated that nobody can say anything definite in the matter at present.

PRESIDENT : The House will now rise and meet again at eleven A. M. on Tuesday, the 22nd August 1933.

The Council adjourned at 4-32 P. M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI,

Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.